



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

SHORT STORIES

1/-

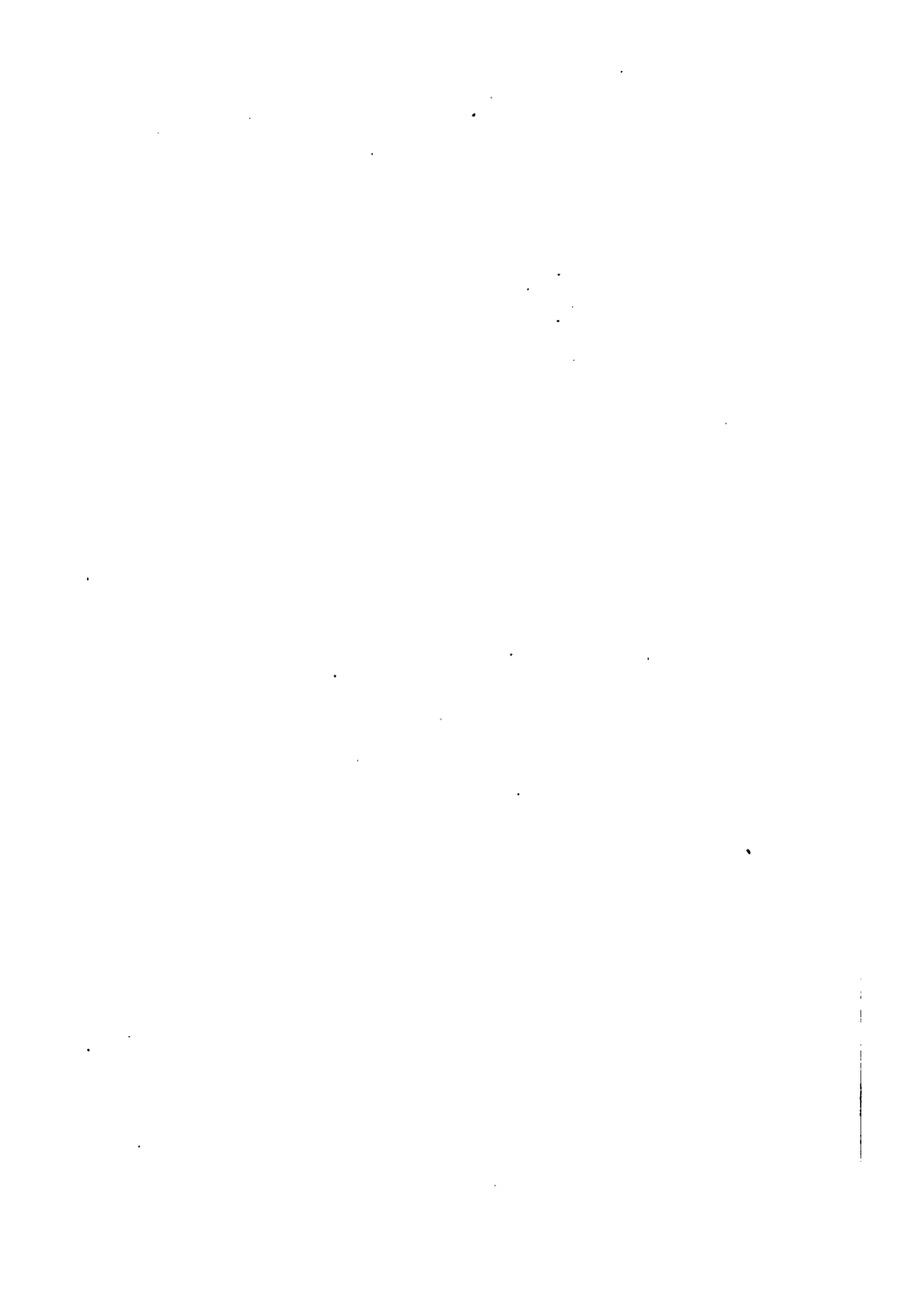
POCKET EDITION





1







SE

—

—  
—

Y  
R  
t  
)

—

—

—

—

28, WARWICK  
100

1705. - -



# SHORT STORIES.

SELECTED BY

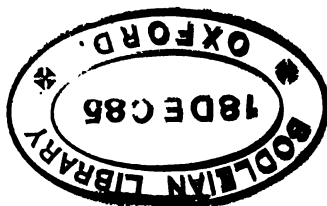
J. M. LAINÉ, M.A.



London:

MOFFATT AND PAIGE,  
28, WARWICK LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.  
1884.

2705. f. 12



BUTLER & TANNER,  
THE SELWOOD PRINTING WORKS,  
FROME, AND LONDON.

## PREFACE.

---

CHILDREN in the Fifth Standard of an elementary school are required by the Education Department to "write from memory the substance of a short story read out twice." A more universal adoption in the education of the young of this method of training them to write English, would, it is believed, be beneficial, and the primary object of the present collection is to supply teachers generally with a number of stories suitable for such an exercise. At the same time, however, it is hoped that the subject matter of the book may also be found to be sufficiently attractive to recommend it as a Reader for children.

The stories, which have been abridged, adapted, or copied from various sources, are either illustrative of moral qualities, such as kindness, self-sacrifice, courage, honour, truthfulness, and honesty; or they exemplify animal intelligence; or they describe amusing, adventurous, or wonderful incidents. While an attempt has thus been made to secure both a good moral tone and variety, care has also been taken to include only such stories as contain some special point or points, which may readily engage the hearers' attention. Tales, in which dialogue occurs, have been here and there introduced, as affording a good means of exercising simultaneously and in a special way children's powers of expression and memory.

# CONTENTS.

## STORIES OF SELF-SACRIFICE, KINDNESS, AND SYMPATHY.

	PAGE		PAGE
A Sister's Love . . . . .	7	The Faithful Slave of St. Domingo . . . . .	77
The Dying Engine-Driver . . . . .	9	An Act of Kindness its own Reward . . . . .	79
Lady Watson and her Husband . . . . .	12	The Force of Kindness . . . . .	83
The Pilot . . . . .	18	The Corporal and the Private . . . . .	87
Generous Act of Marshal Ney . . . . .	20	A Robber Saved . . . . .	89
Filial Affection of a Page . . . . .	22	Unconscious Goodness . . . . .	92
Self-Sacrifice of a French Workman . . . . .	26	The Mutineer . . . . .	95
Returning Good for Evil . . . . .	30	A Kindness done in Secret . . . . .	99
The Saxon Surgeon at the Battle of Wagram . . . . .	35	The Swiss Shepherd's Sons and the Eagle's Nest . . . . .	101
"Thy need is greater than mine" . . . . .	42	An Indian's Revenge . . . . .	104
The Good Archbishop . . . . .	45	The German Prince and his faithful Soldiers . . . . .	107
The Wounded Soldier and his Comrade . . . . .	50	The Sentinel and his Sister . . . . .	110
Self-Devotion at Great Yarmouth . . . . .	57	A Life of Self-devotion . . . . .	114
Faithful unto Death . . . . .	60	The Russian Exile's Daughter . . . . .	117
A Cup of Cold Water . . . . .	65	Youthful Benevolence . . . . .	121
The Helmsman of Lake Erie . . . . .	68	The Prisoner and his Son . . . . .	123
Jim Dick . . . . .	71	William IV. and the Destitute Orphan . . . . .	125
The Engine-Driver and the Burning Train . . . . .	73	A Wife's Forgiveness and Heroism . . . . .	128
The Actress and the Widow . . . . .	76	Wrongly Suspected . . . . .	131

## STORIES OF COURAGE, ENDURANCE, AND PRESENCE OF MIND.

	PAGE		PAGE
Dignity Maintained . . . . .	10	The Hero of Sempach . . . . .	49
A Girl's Presence of Mind . . . . .	13	Bravery of Deal Boatmen . . . . .	52
Heroism of Catherine Douglas . . . . .	24	A Happy Expression. Unexpected Politeness . . . . .	53
An Army saved by One Man . . . . .	31	The Pearl Fisher . . . . .	56
The Self-denial of Alexander . . . . .	37	Brave Rescue of a Ship's Crew . . . . .	58
Desperate Patriotism . . . . .	40	Brave Rescue by a Surgeon . . . . .	63
Power of the Eye . . . . .	44	A Brave Girl . . . . .	66
Fight with a Mad Dog . . . . .	45		

# CONTENTS.

5

	PAGE		PAGE
The Wreck of the <i>Birkenhead</i>	70	Brave Attack on a Shark by a Sailor	100
Lady Edgworth's Presence of Mind	75	Helen Petrie	103
A Knotted Shawl and a Life-boat	78	Young but Manly	105
A Tiger Adventure	81	Heroism of a Maid Servant	109
Small but Brave	85	The Brave Drummer Boy	113
The Lion Killer	87	Antigone	116
The Fire at Strasburg	90	They Volunteered to a Man	119
A Noble Peasant	93	Captain Knowles of the <i>Northfleet</i>	122
Trial of Courage	94	A Highlander's Temerity	124
Fritz and the Wolf	97	The Pointsman's Temptation	127

## STORIES OF HONOUR, TRUTHFULNESS, AND HONESTY.

	PAGE		PAGE
True Religion	8	Camillus and the Traitor	61
The Duke of Wellington on a Bargain	11	The Duke of Wellington's Truthfulness	72
An Honest Turkish Shop-keeper	13	The Biter Bitten	80
The Duke of Wellington's Rectitude	19	The Red Indian and the Deserted Store	82
Too Honourable to Escape	23	The Cab Driver's Temptation	90
An Honest Message Boy	29	Honesty Rewarded	97
The Two Peasants of the Alps	33	The Broken Flower Pot	101
The Loaf and its Hidden Treasure	36	Friendship's Trial	104
A Fortune Sacrificed	38	The little Crossing-Sweepers and the Half-sovereign	106
A Good Old Man	39	The Boy who would not Rob the Orchard	109
The Honour of a Highlander	43	The Dutch Shipmaster and the Russian Cottager	113
Regulus, the Roman	47	The Advocate and his Client	126
Integrity of a Soldier	55		

## STORIES OF ANIMALS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Jack and his Driver	7	The Faithful Buffalo	30
The Cat which died of Grief	8	The Grateful Lion	32
The Elephant accusing his Driver of Theft	10	Cunning Crows	34
The Wounded Bird	12	The Loving Mocking-Birds	37
The Dog and Cat	14	The Good-natured Bear and the Children	41
A Sagacious Donkey	15	The Cat which rang the Bell	42
The Brave Bull and the Wise Pig	17	The Irish Horse and the Infant	43
The Cat and the Canary	19	A Dog helping his Injured Friend	46
Story of an Elephant	21	The Compassionate Dog which saved Pussy's Life	48
The Cat as a Bird-Catcher	22	The Horse and the Injured Carman	50
A Friend in Need	25		
The Ass and the Door Latch	26		

	PAGE		PAGE
The Kind Cow and the Sheep	52	The Blind Elephant and the	
A Queer Nesting Place . . .	54	Doctor . . .	74
Dog waking up Servants . . .	57	A Murderer Convicted by a Dog	78
A Dog Messenger . . .	59	Sympathy of Birds . . .	82
The Newfoundland Dog sav-		The Four-legged Thief Taker	86
ing the Mastiff . . .	62	Story of a Parrot and a Monkey	91
A Mischievous Monkey . . .	64	The Brave Horse . . .	96
Maternal Care of Birds . . .	67	A Clever Pony . . .	111
The Affectionate Seal . . .	68	The Newfoundland Dog and	
Generous Marco . . .	70	the Drowning Child . . .	118

## AMUSING STORIES.

	PAGE		PAGE
The Irishmen's First Taste of		Shaving . . .	39
Mustard . . .	9	A Singular Justification . . .	46
"What a Nose!" . . .	11	A Prisoner helping his Counsel	48
Carrying a Joke too Far . . .	14	The Kitten and the Judge's	
A Judge always Jumping to		Wig . . .	51
Conclusions . . .	18	A Curious Decision; or Smell-	
Absence of Mind . . .	20	ing and Hearing . . .	55
A Schoolboy's Evidence of the		Mr. Fox and the Pickpocket . . .	58
Master's Drunken Habits	21	Not so Wonderful after all . . .	65
Hard to Answer . . .	25	The Page and the Cherries . . .	72
The Sailor with the Broken		An Unexpected Helper . . .	74
Leg and the Royal Society	27	A Miraculous Transformation	84
A Silent Companion . . .	28	The Ventriloquist and the	
A Judge taking his Wife on		Engineer . . .	88
Circuit . . .	29	Small Service . . .	112
A very Singular Excuse . . .	32	A Ventriloquist in Danger . . .	115
The Horse and the Beetroot . . .	38	A Remembered Face . . .	120

## MISCELLANEOUS STORIES.

	PAGE		PAGE
Lord Stowell's Love of Sight-		A School-Day Anecdote . . .	60
Seeing . . .	15	A Wonderful Escape . . .	61
Lord Tenterden's Sense of		How Richard I. fell into Prison	63
Duty . . .	16	Proving a Debt . . .	67
The Honey Seeker and the		The Miser's Death . . .	69
Bear . . .	16	A Salutory Pill . . .	76
The Doctor who received the		Wonderful Escape of a	
Life of his Patient in Pay-		Drunken Sailor . . .	80
ment for his Visits . . .	17	They Met Again . . .	85
The Militiaman's Adventure . . .	24	Avarice Punished . . .	92
Patience . . .	27	A Mystery Cleared up . . .	94
A Strange Story . . .	31	Lost and Found . . .	98
The Danger of being Ungrate-		The Throw for Life or Death	102
ful . . .	34	The Engine-Driver's Story . . .	108
Treachery Discovered . . .	35	"I will make you repent it" . . .	117
The Lost Child . . .	41	A Plain-spoken Young Ensign	124
Lost Willie . . .	49	The Lifeboat Captain and his	
Fine Feeling of Alphonso,		Son . . .	129
King of Aragon . . .	53	The Fairy's Wand . . .	130

## SHORT STORIES.

---

### A SISTER'S LOVE.

A touching story is told of a French girl only eleven years of age, who succeeded in saving her little brother from wolves. It was during a severe winter in a remote village of France, and wolves were constantly seen prowling about. One day a wolf with five whelps burst into the girl's cottage, attracted by the smell of bread she had been baking. By means of a heavy stick the little girl had almost succeeded in driving the she-wolf off, when, seeing one of the cubs about to attack her brother, she seized the boy, thrust him into a cupboard, and buttoned the door. That gave the wolf time to fly at her throat, and in a moment she was the prey of the wolves. Her brother remained quite safe, and was released by some neighbours from the cupboard. He lived to be an old man, treasuring the memory of the mother-like sister, who had died to save him.

### JACK AND HIS DRIVER.

An interesting story is told by Mr. Smiles of a horse called Jack. Jack's business was to draw the stone trucks along the tramway during the erection of Waterloo Bridge. Near at hand was a beer-shop, frequented by the navvies and carters. Jack's driver, named Tom, was an honest fellow, and very kind to Jack, but too fond of spending more time than he ought to have done in the beer-shop. Jack, though a restive animal, got accustomed to Tom's habits, and waited patiently till an over-looker startled him into activity. On one occasion, however,

the superintendent being absent, Tom took so long a spell at the ale that Jack became restive, and the trace fastenings being long enough, the animal put his head inside the beer-house door, and seizing the astonished Tom by the collar with his teeth dragged him out to his duty at the truck. Great in consequence became the fame of Jack among the host of labourers.

### TRUE RELIGION.

During the reign of Charles IX. of France, that country was the scene of almost continuous warfare between the Catholics and the Protestants. The leaders of the Catholic party were the great dukes of Guise, and of one of these a pleasing story is related. The duke was one day informed that a Protestant gentleman had come into his camp with an intention to assassinate him. He sent for him, and the gentleman immediately avowed his intention. The duke asked him whether his design arose from any offence he had ever given him. "Your excellency never gave me any, I assure you," replied the gentleman : "my motive for desiring your life is because you are the greatest enemy of religion I ever knew." "Well then, my friend," said the duke to him, "if your religion incites you to assassinate me, my religion tells me to forgive you," and he sent him immediately out of the camp.

### THE CAT WHICH DIED OF GRIEF.

A lady in France possessed a cat which exhibited great affection for her. She accompanied her everywhere, and when she sat down always lay at her feet. From no other hands than those of her mistress would she take food, nor would she allow any one else to fondle her.

The lady kept a number of tame birds ; but the cat, though she would willingly have caught and eaten strange birds, never injured one of them.

At last the lady fell ill, when nothing could induce the cat to leave her room ; and, on her death, the attendants had to carry away the poor animal by force. The next morning, however,

she was found in the room of death, creeping slowly about and mewing piteously. After the funeral, the faithful cat made her escape from the house, and was at length discovered, stretched out lifeless above the grave of her mistress, having evidently died of a broken heart.

### THE IRISHMEN'S FIRST TASTE OF MUSTARD.

Two Irishmen landed at Liverpool some years ago, and sat down to their first dinner on shore. On the table was a jar of prepared mustard, an article which neither of them had met with before. One of them took a spoonful at a venture, which quickly brought a deluge of tears into his eyes. "What are you crying about?" said his companion. "I was crying at the recollection of my poor father, who was hanged this day now twenty years gone." The dinner proceeded, and soon the other made a dip into the mustard, with a similar result. "What are *you* crying about?" demurely asked his comrade. "I am crying because you were not hanged when your father was."

### THE DYING ENGINE-DRIVER.

During the American war, a train conveying prisoners to Elmira came into terrible collision with another train. The engine-driver, whose name was William Ingram, might have leapt off and saved himself before the terrible shock; but he remained in order to reverse the engine, though with certain death staring him in the face. He was buried in the wreck of the meeting train, and when found, his back was against the boiler—he was jammed in, unable to move, and actually being burnt to death; but even in that terrible extremity of anguish, he forgot his sufferings in his care for the life of others, and called out to those who came round to help him, "Keep off, the boiler is going to burst." They disregarded the generous cry, and pressing round used every effort to rescue him. The attempt was vain; they could not succeed in extricating him until after his sufferings had ended in death.

### THE ELEPHANT ACCUSING HIS DRIVER OF THEFT.

A large elephant was sent a few years ago to assist in piling up timber in a remote part of India. The officer who despatched it, suspecting the honesty of the driver, requested the wife of a missionary, to whose house the animal was sent, to watch that he received his proper allowance of rice. After some time the lady, suspecting that her charge was being defrauded of his rice, intimated her mistrust to the keeper. The man pretended to be greatly surprised at having such an imputation made against him, and exclaimed in his native tongue, "Madam, do you think I would rob my child?" The elephant, which was standing by, seemed aware of the subject of the conversation, and kept eyeing the keeper, who had on a bulky waist-cloth. No sooner had he uttered these words than the animal threw his trunk round him, and untying the waist-cloth, a quantity of rice fell to the ground.

### DIGNITY MAINTAINED.

An ambassador from the Emperor Charles the Fifth to the Sultan of the Turks was invited to an audience with that monarch. On his arrival he perceived that seats had been placed for all but him, and that he was left standing by the Turks, for the purpose of showing their indifference towards his nation. With the greatest self-possession and coolness, he at once took off his cloak, folded it up and sat down upon it. He then joined in the discussion, to take part in which his attendance had been requested. When the audience was finished, the ambassador rose and took his leave without paying the least attention to his cloak. An officer, supposing the cloak had been forgotten, called to him, saying, "Sir, you have forgotten your cloak." "Oh, no, I have not," replied he; "the ambassadors of the king, my master, are not in the habit of carrying about their seats with them."

**THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON ON A BARGAIN.**

The Duke of Wellington was the owner of a large estate in Berkshire called Strathfieldsaye. On one occasion it was proposed to him to purchase a farm, which adjoined his estate, and which was therefore a valuable acquisition. The Duke assented, and directed his steward to proceed with the transaction. When the purchase was completed, the steward came to give an account of the cost of the transfer. Thinking that he would gain credit for shrewdness, he enlarged on the fact that the seller was in difficulties, and had been forced to part with the land, and congratulated the Duke upon having had such a bargain. "What do you mean by a bargain?" said the Duke. The other replied, "The land was valued at £1,100, and we have got it for £800." "In that case," said the Duke, "you will please to carry the extra £300 to the late owner, and never talk to me of cheap land again."

**"WHAT A NOSE!"**

Not many years ago in a village of Georgia, a traveller put up for the night at the tavern. He was possessed of a most remarkable nose, one which almost covered his entire face—red, Roman, enormous; it was such a nose as is only once seen in a lifetime. So great a show was it, that it attracted universal attention. The glances cast at it and the remarks made about it had rendered its owner somewhat sensitive upon the subject. A half-grown negro boy was summoned by the proprietor to carry the traveller's baggage to his room. As the boy came out of the room, unable to contain himself any longer, he exclaimed, "Massa! *what* a nose!" The gentleman overheard him, and went to his master with a demand for his punishment. The negro was called up, and, at the suggestion of some bystanders, was let off on condition that he would apologise to the offended gentleman. Walking into the room where our traveller was, and humbly bowing, he said, "*Massa, you haven't got no nose at all.*"

**LADY WATSON AND HER HUSBAND.**

One day Lady Watson was walking along the sea-shore, collecting shells for her museum. On looking up, she saw a solitary man on a ledge of rock surrounded by water. She knew not who he was ; but he was in risk of losing his life, and she determined to save him. The tide was rising rapidly, and the waves were furiously rushing in upon the land. It appeared almost impossible to rescue the forlorn man from his perilous position. Nevertheless she appealed to the boatmen, and offered a high reward to those who would go to sea and save the man. At first they hesitated, but at length a boat started, and reached the rock just as the man's strength was exhausted. They got him on board, and conveyed him safely to land. What was the lady's astonishment to find in the rescued man her own husband, Sir William Watson !

**THE WOUNDED BIRD.**

"While I was waiting," says a traveller in Central Asia, "for my tent to be prepared, one of the camel-drivers brought me a little bird resembling the water-wagtail, one of the rare inhabitants of the Steppe, and therefore an object of sympathy and interest to me. The men had injured the poor little thing in catching it, and gave it, wounded and half dead from fear, into my hand. I placed it in a hollow in the loose wall of the tent, where it was tolerably safe. At night, when my candle was lighted, it hopped out and took its seat on my bed. I was touched with the incident, and disposed my baggage so as to shelter the poor little companion of my solitude. In the morning, my first care was to attend to my wounded guest. I found it lying dead on the spot where it had slept. I dug a little grave in its native Steppe, and there I buried it."

**A GIRL'S PRESENCE OF MIND.**

A farmer once sent his daughter with a considerable sum of money to pay the rent of his farm to the landlord, who lived at a distance of about three miles. On her way she was overtaken by a countryman in a smock-frock. He asked her where she was going, and, with the innocence of youth, she told him her errand. By promising that he would show her a nearer way than by the high-road, he led her to a lonely spot, where there was a deep well, and told her that, if she did not give him the money immediately, he would throw her into the well. The poor girl, frightened out of her wits, was preparing to give him the money, when the robber, thinking he heard a noise, turned round to see what it was, and the girl, with great presence of mind, ran upon him with all her strength, and pushed him into the well. Alarmed at what she had done, she ran for assistance; but when it arrived the countryman was dead, and it was discovered that he was a criminal who had escaped from transportation. This is a lesson to beware how you confide in strangers.

**AN HONEST TURKISH SHOPKEEPER.**

A traveller in Turkey mentions the following instance of Turkish honesty, which fell under his own observation. A friend of his wandering through the bazaars, wished to buy an embroidered handkerchief of a Turkish shopkeeper. He asked the price. "Seventy-five piastres." "No," said he, aware that it is usual among all traders, whatever their creed, to ask at first more than the value, "that is too much, I will give you seventy," and as the dealer seemed to nod assent he counted out the money. But his surprise was great when the bearded Turk, gravely pushing back to him twenty piastres, observed: "This is more than the just price; it is always the custom here to bargain over a thing down to its fair value, and as fifty piastres is my proper price, these twenty belong to you." Truly many who profess a higher religion might take a lesson from this believer in the Koran.

**THE DOG AND CAT.**

A tradesman in a London suburb possessed a dog and cat which on the whole lived together on very friendly terms. One day the cat wandered on to an adjoining railway line, probably in pursuit of a bird ; but, whatever its object, it was so intent in watching it that a train approached unheeded, and cut off one of poor puss's feet. The poor animal remained for a time unnoticed, but by-and-by its household companion, attracted to the place by its pitiful mewings, came to the spot, and, tenderly taking hold of the cat in his teeth, carried it home. When he had directed the master's attention to the cat's unfortunate condition, the dog went straight back to the railway line. He then sniffed along and searched until he found the missing paw, and carrying it home, laid it down beside poor bleeding puss.

**CARRYING A JOKE TOO FAR.**

The following report has been given of a case that occurred on the Midland Circuit. A man was tried at Northampton for stealing a pair of shoes. The case for the prosecution had closed, and the prisoner, being undefended by counsel, was thus addressed by the Judge, Baron Alderson : " Now, prisoner, is the time for you to say anything in your defence. Speak to those twelve gentlemen in the box. What have you to say as to those shoes ? "

*Prisoner* : " My lord, I only took them by way of a joke. "

*Judge* : " What, as a practical joke ? "

*Prisoner* : " Yes, my lord. "

*Judge* : " How far did you carry them ? "

*Prisoner* (off his guard) : " A mile and a half, my lord. "

*Judge* (to the jury) : " I think that is carrying a joke *too far*. What do you say, gentlemen ? "

The jury, agreeing probably with the judge that the joke had indeed been carried too far, found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

**LORD STOWELL'S LOVE OF SIGHT-SEEING.**

It is related of Lord Stowell, the great judge, that he was the most untiring sight-seer in London. Whatever show could be visited for a shilling, or less, was visited by Lord Stowell. In the western end of London there was a room generally let for exhibitions. At the entrance, it is said, Lord Stowell presented himself, eager to see "the green monster serpent," which had recently issued cards of invitation to the public. As he was pulling out his purse to pay for his admission, a sharp but honest north-country lad, whose business it was to take the money, recognised him as an old customer, and knowing his name, thus addressed him: "We can't take your shilling, my lord; 'tis the old serpent which you have seen twice before in other colours; but you shall go in and see her." He entered, saved his money, and enjoyed his third visit to the painted beauty.

**A SAGACIOUS DONKEY.**

The donkey has always been regarded as one of the most stupid of animals, but, when kindly treated, he is capable of very great sagacity, as the following story will show:—A Spanish peasant had for many years carried milk into Madrid, to supply a set of customers. Every morning he and his donkey, with loaded panniers, trudged the well-known round. At last the peasant became very ill, and had no one to send to market. His wife proposed to send the faithful old animal by himself. The panniers were accordingly filled with canisters of milk; an inscription, written by the priest, requested customers to measure their own milk and return the vessels; and the donkey was instructed to set off with his load. He went, and returned with empty canisters; and this he continued to do for several days. The house bells in Madrid are usually so constructed that you pull downwards to make them ring. The peasant afterwards learned that his sagacious animal stopped before the door of every customer, and after waiting what he deemed a sufficient time pulled the bell with his mouth.

### **LORD TENTERDEN'S SENSE OF DUTY.**

Lord Tenterden was remarkable for his high sense of duty. For some time previous to his death he had been in very ill-health, but still he continued to attend his court. When remonstrated with, he replied: "I have public duties to perform; and while it pleases God to preserve my mental faculties, I will perform those duties—bodily suffering I can and will bear." A little more than a week before his death, he was told that, if he continued to set the advice of his medical attendants at defiance, it was impossible he could live; but a little rest and retirement would restore him to comparative health. "I know better," he replied; "my days are numbered; but I will perform my duty to the last." The following occurrence is stated to have happened previous to his death. He had been sinking the whole night, but towards morning he became restless and delirious. All at once he sat up in his bed, and with a motion of his hand, as if dipping his pen in the inkstand, as he had been accustomed to do on the bench, said distinctly, "Gentlemen of the jury, you are discharged." He then fell back in his bed, and almost immediately expired.

### **THE HONEY-SEEKER AND THE BEAR.**

A story is told of a man in Russia who, while descending into the hollow trunk of a tree to obtain a cone of honey, stuck fast, and was unable to extricate himself. Being too far from home to make his voice heard, he remained in that uncomfortable position two days, sustaining his life by eating the honey. He had become silent from despair, when, looking up, he saw a huge bear above him also in search of honey, and about to descend into the interior of the tree.

Bears, very wisely, when getting into hollows of rocks or trees, go tail-end first, and no sooner did the tail of the bear reach him, than, in spite of his dismay, the man caught hold of it. The animal, astonished at finding some big creature below him, quickly scrambled out again, dragging up the man, who

probably shouted right lustily. Be that as it may, the bear waddled off at a quick rate, and the honey-seeker made his way homeward to relate his adventure and relieve the anxiety of his family.

### **THE DOCTOR WHO RECEIVED THE LIFE OF HIS PATIENT IN PAYMENT FOR HIS VISITS.**

An authoress in London, named Constantia Philipps, was at one time reduced to great poverty. To assist her, some of her friends made a subscription, and set her up in a little book-shop at Westminster, where she was just able to live from hand to mouth. In order to obtain a little money, she worked night and day in writing her memoirs, which, it appears, were interesting. So much exertion and such scanty diet threw her into a dangerous illness, from which, however, she recovered owing to the skill of an able doctor. Some time after her recovery, the doctor presented his bill, but the unfortunate Mrs. Philipps told him that she was really so poor that she could not pay him. After several calls, he became impatient, and reproached her with ingratitude, telling her that she owed him her life. "I acknowledge it," said she, "and to prove that I am not ungrateful, I will pay you with my life;" presenting him at the same time with two volumes entitled "The Life of Constantia Philipps."

### **THE BRAVE BULL AND THE WISE PIG.**

A pig had been stolen by two men, who were driving it at night along an unfrequented path in the neighbourhood of Rotherham. As the pig squeaked loudly, they feared they might be betrayed, and were about to kill it. The pig, however, struggled violently, and had already received a wound, when it managed to escape into a neighbouring field, squeaking still louder, and with the blood flowing from its wound. The robbers, pursuing the pig, found themselves face to face with a large bull, which had been till now grazing quietly. Feeling

compassion apparently for the pig, he ran fiercely at the men, compelling them to fly for their lives. It was only, indeed, by leaping desperately over a hedge, that they escaped an ugly toss from the horns of the animal.

In vain did they wait, in the hope of recovering the pig. Piggy, having found a powerful friend, was too wise to desert him, and kept close to his heels, till the crowing of the cocks in the neighbouring farms warned the robbers to make their escape.

### **A JUDGE ALWAYS JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.**

Curran was often stopped by Lord Avonmore in his argument by the remark: "Mr. Curran, I know your cleverness, but it's quite in vain for you to go on: I see the drift of it all, and you are only giving yourself and me unnecessary trouble." One day, Curran being too often stopped in this way, thus addressed the judge: "Perhaps, my lord, I am straying, but you must impute it to the extreme agitation of my mind. I have just witnessed so dreadful a circumstance, that I have not yet recovered from the shock." The judge was all attention: "Go on, Mr. Curran." "On my way to court, my lord, as I passed by one of the markets, I observed a butcher proceeding to slaughter a calf. Just as his hand was raised, a lovely little child approached him unperceived, and, terrible to relate, the child's bosom was under the butcher's hand, when he plunged the knife into—into—" "Into the bosom of the child!" cried out the judge, with great emotion. "Your lordship sometimes anticipates—it went right into the neck of the calf!"

### **THE PILOT.**

A storm raged and howled along the Baltic coast, and the incoming breakers burst in white foam along the rocky shore. An old pilot, peering through the mist and rain, shouted,— "You see that brig? She's standing in, and if she does not alter her course in a few minutes she'll strike! I must go out to her!"

"No boat will live in the open water! You'll be capsized!" shouted the bystanders. Go he would, however, for, as he said, his life would not be wasted should his last words be the means of saving a shipload of young lives. "Surely they are worth an old man like me! Hand me the speaking trumpet!" he roared. And the little craft dashed away from among the rocks with the speed of a sea-gull, and reached the outermost point, whence a shout was heard by those on board the brig,— "Starboard your helm! Starboard!" The ship passed safely on, but those were indeed the brave pilot's last words. A few hours later his boat was hurled ashore keel uppermost.

### THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S RECTITUDE.

One of the fine traits in the character of the Duke of Wellington was his keen sense of honour and his scrupulous avoidance of mean actions. An instance of this is related of him during his service in India, when known as Sir Arthur Wellesley. Shortly after the battle of Assaye, one morning the Prime Minister of the Court of Hyderabad waited upon him for the purpose of privately ascertaining what territory and what advantages had been reserved for his master in the treaty of peace that was then under negotiation. To obtain this information the minister offered the general a very large sum—considerably above £100,000. Looking at him quietly for a few seconds, Sir Arthur said, "It appears, then, that you are capable of keeping a secret?" "Yes, certainly," replied the minister. "*Then so am I,*" said the English general smiling, and, without another word, bowed the discomfited minister out.

### THE CAT AND THE CANARY.

A lady owned two pets—a cat and a canary. The canary was allowed to fly about the room when the cat was shut out; but one day their mistress, lifting her head from her work, saw that the cat had by some means got in; and, to her amazement, there was the canary perched fearlessly on the back of pussy,

who seemed highly pleased with the confidence placed in her. After this the two were allowed to be constantly together. One morning, however, as they were in the bedroom of their mistress, what was her dismay to see the cat seize the canary in her mouth, and leap with her into the bed. There she stood, her tail stiffened out, her hair bristling, and her eyes glaring fiercely. The fate of the poor canary appeared sealed; but just then the lady caught sight of a strange cat creeping cautiously through the open doorway. The intruder was quickly driven away, when faithful puss deposited her feathered friend on the bed, in no way injured,—she having thus seized it to save it from the fangs of the stranger.

### **ABSENCE OF MIND.**

The following laughable story has been told of Sir Isaac Newton, who was remarkable for his absence of mind. One morning he had risen early to work out some very difficult problem. He was so deeply engaged in it that he would not leave it to go and breakfast with the family. His housekeeper, however, fearing that long fasting might make him ill, sent one of the servants into his study with an egg and a saucepan of water. The servant was told to boil the egg, and stay while her master ate it, but Newton, wishing to be alone, sent her away, saying he would cook it himself. The servant, after placing it by the side of his watch on the table, and telling him to let it boil three minutes, left the room. Fearing, however, that he might forget all about the egg, she returned soon after and found him standing by the fireside, with the egg in his hand, his watch boiling in the saucepan, and he himself quite unconscious of the mistake he had committed.

### **GENEROUS ACT OF MARSHAL NEY.**

A noble and gentle deed is related of the brave French Marshal Ney during the Peninsular War. Charles Napier, who afterwards made so great a name, was taken prisoner at

Corunna, desperately wounded, and his friends at home did not know whether he was alive or dead. A special messenger was sent out from England with a frigate to ascertain his fate. A French officer received the messenger under a flag of truce, and informed Ney of the arrival. "Let the prisoner see his friends," said Ney, "and tell them he is well, and well treated." The officer lingered, and Ney asked, smiling, "what more he wanted?" "He has an old mother, a widow, and blind." "Has he? then let him go himself and tell her he is alive." As the exchange of prisoners between the countries was not then allowed, Ney knew that he risked the displeasure of Napoleon by setting the young officer at liberty; but when the story was told to the Emperor he approved the generous act.

### STORY OF AN ELEPHANT.

An amusing anecdote is given by an Indian officer of an elephant named "Pangal," which showed remarkable sagacity. This animal, when on the march, refused to carry on his back a larger load than he thought was right and proper. He would pull down as much of the burden as reduced it to the weight which he conceived it was fair for him to bear. One day the quarter-master of the brigade became enraged at this apparent obstinacy of the animal, and very cruelly threw a tent-pin at his head. A few days after, as the elephant was on his way from camp to water, he overtook the quarter-master, and, seizing him in his trunk, lifted him into a large tamarind tree, which overhung the road, and left him to cling to the branches, and get down in the best way he could.

### A SCHOOLBOY'S EVIDENCE OF THE MASTER'S DRUNKEN HABITS.

A parish schoolmaster in Scotland was accused of drunkenness, and one of the witnesses was a boy who attended the school. The lawyer who prosecuted questioned the boy with the following result. "When you attended school, did you

notice that the master often went into a small room which opened out of the schoolroom?" "Yes, I did." "Do you remember what it contained?" "Yes, there were a good many bottles, and they were all arranged on shelves." "Very good; and when the master entered, did you look what he was doing?" "Yes." "Well now, tell us what you saw the master do on those occasions." "He was handling bottles." "Handling bottles! very good. And can you tell us what the bottles contained?" "Yes." "Well now, just tell these gentlemen what the bottles contained?" This last question was put as the lawyer was about to resume his seat with a triumphant air. "Yes," replied the boy, "they were *ink* bottles." No further questions were put to this witness.

### FILIAL AFFECTION OF A PAGE.

The emperor Charles V. had a page, whose father had been rash enough to enter into a conspiracy against his monarch. He was in consequence obliged to flee for his life, and his property was confiscated. The page was yet very young, and received no salary at court, and his tender heart was grieved at not being able to send assistance to his father, who was reduced to great poverty. At length, unable to bear the idea of the sufferings of his parent, the young man sold the horse that was allowed him for exercise, and sent the money to his father. The horse was soon missed, and the page questioned, but he refused to give any account of him. At last, the emperor himself hearing of the circumstance, insisted on knowing what had been done with the horse. The youth was sent for, when, falling on his knees, he burst into tears and confessed all, saying: "I hope your Majesty will pardon me; for if my father has forgotten his duty to his king, he is nevertheless my father, and nothing could excuse me if I were to forget my duty towards him."

### THE CAT AS A BIRD-CATCHER.

The following is said to be a well authenticated case of the ingenious devices to which a clever cat will resort for the purpose

of capturing prey. During a severe winter a gentleman was in the habit of throwing crumbs outside his bedroom window. The family owned a fine black cat, which, seeing that the crumbs brought birds, would occasionally hide herself behind some shrubs, and when the birds came for their breakfast, would pounce out upon them. Her attempts, however, at capturing her prey were not by any means always successful. The crumbs had been laid out as usual one afternoon, but left untouched, and during the night a slight fall of snow occurred. On looking out next morning, the gentleman observed the cat busily engaged scratching away the snow. Curious to learn what she sought, he waited, and saw her take the crumbs up from the cleared space and lay them one by one after another on the snow. After doing this, she retired behind the shrubs to await the arrival of her prey. This stratagem was repeated on two other occasions, but the birds were on the watch, and would not be caught.

### TOO HONOURABLE TO ESCAPE.

During the rebellion of 1745, Alexander Macdonald, of Kingsburgh, was so involved in the escape of Prince Charles that his condemnation seemed certain, and he was brought prisoner to Fort Augustus. During his confinement in that fort, an order came for the release of several prisoners. Amongst those who were to be released, the officer called the name of Alexander Macdonald, and asked our hero if that was not his name. "That is my name," said he; "but I suspect there is some mistake." "What do you mean?" said the officer; "is not that your name?" "Yes, certainly," said Macdonald, but still warned the man there must be some error. At last he went out. A friend meeting him advised him to leave the place instantly. "No," said Macdonald, "I must stay and see if the officer does not get into a scrape; I shall go to that public-house opposite." In about two hours a body of soldiers came, with an order to arrest the officer on guard for having let so dangerous a prisoner at large. Macdonald instantly ran across

the street, saying to the officer, "I told you there was some mistake." He was thereupon seized, and once more imprisoned; but it is pleasing to learn that the life of such a noble-minded man was ultimately saved.

### **THE MILITIAMAN'S ADVENTURE.**

A Swiss militiaman, on his way to be present at a muster, lost his way on the mountains and rolled over a precipice. He caught hold of a bush which had struck its roots into a cleft of rock, and called loudly for help. Two schoolmasters on an excursion heard his cries, but as the man was some twelve hundred feet below the top of the cliff, and the bottom was quite as far below him, they found it impossible to give any help. They hurried off to the nearest village, and a dozen mountaineers, equipped with ropes, started forthwith for the precipice. The man was still holding on to the bush, to which he had been clinging a day and a night with death staring him in the face, and besides suffering from hunger and cold, he had been hurt in the fall. Hoisting him to the top was a perilous undertaking, but it was safely accomplished. None of his hurts were dangerous, and after a long rest and hearty meal he was able to continue his journey.

### **HEROISM OF CATHERINE DOUGLAS.**

A conspiracy had been formed to take the life of James II. of Scotland during his stay at Perth. When the conspirators burst into his lodgings, the king called to the ladies, who were in the chamber outside his room, to keep the doors as well as they could, and give him time to escape. The conspirators had previously destroyed the locks of the doors, so that the keys could not be turned. When they reached the ladies' apartment, it was found that they had even taken the precaution of removing the bar, so that there was nothing to prevent their entrance. But on hearing their approach, the brave Catherine Douglas boldly thrust her arm across the door instead of the bar. With

unflinching courage she held it there till it was broken, and the conspirators burst into the room with drawn swords and daggers. Even then she joined the other ladies in endeavouring, though unarmed, to resist, till with her companions she was hurled out of the way by the relentless leaders of the attack.

### A FRIEND IN NEED.

An Edinburgh paper had some years ago a story of a poor dog, which, in order to make sport for some merciless beings in the shape of men, had a pan tied to his tail, and was sent off on his travels. On reaching the village of Galt he was utterly exhausted and unable to move a step farther to rid himself of the torment.

Another dog, a Scotch collie, came up, and seeing the distress of his friend, laid himself gently down beside him, and gaining his confidence by a few caresses, proceeded to gnaw the string by which the noisy appendage was attached. After about a quarter of an hour's exertion, the cord was severed, and the collie started to his legs with the pan hanging to the string in his mouth. He then made a few joyful capers round his friend and took leave of him in high glee at his success.

### HARD TO ANSWER.

At Plymouth there is, or was, a small green opposite the Government House, over which no one was permitted to pass. Not a creature was allowed to approach, save the General's cow ; and the sentries had orders to turn away any one who ventured to cross the forbidden turf. One day an old lady of rank and title, having called at the General's, in order to make a short cut, bent her steps across the lawn. She had only, however, gone a few paces, when she was arrested by the sentry calling out, and desiring her to return, and go the other road. She remonstrated ; the man said he could not disobey his orders, which were to prevent any one crossing that piece of ground. " But," said the surprised and offended lady with a stately air,

"do you know who I am?" "I don't know who you are, ma'am," replied the immovable sentry, "but I know who you are not—you are not the General's cow." So unanswerable was this assertion, that the lady wisely gave up the argument, and went the other way.

### **SELF-SACRIFICE OF A FRENCH WORKMAN.**

An incident is related of a French artizan, who exhibited in the highest degree the spirit of self-sacrifice. A lofty house was being built at Paris. In front of it, the usual scaffold had been erected, and, at the time at which the incident occurred, was loaded with workmen as well as with the bricks, mortar, and other building materials they were using. The weight proved greater than the scaffold could bear. Suddenly it gave way, and the men upon it were thrown to the ground—all except two, a young man and a middle-aged one. They contrived to hang on to a narrow ledge, which, though it could support one man, could not bear the weight of two, and was evidently on the point of giving way. "Peter," cried the elder of the two, "let go; I am the father of a family." "You are right," said Peter, and instantly let go his hold. He fell to the ground and was killed on the spot. But his self-sacrifice saved his fellow-workman. He clung to the ledge, which bore his weight until assistance came, and he was rescued.

### **THE ASS AND THE DOOR-LATCH.**

A certain ass had his quarters in a shed, in front of which was a small yard. On one side of the yard was a kitchen-garden, separated from it by a wall, in which was a door fastened by two bolts and a latch. The owner found on several occasions that the garden had been visited by the ass, but was unable to imagine how he had effected an entrance. One night, therefore, he watched from a window overlooking the yard. At first he kept a light burning near him. The ass, however, remained quietly at his stall. After a time, to enable

him to see the better, he had it removed, when what was his surprise to see the donkey come out of the shed, go to the door, and, rearing himself on his hind legs, unfasten the upper bolt of the door with his nose. This done, he next withdrew the lower bolt ; then lifted the latch, and walked into the garden. He was not long engaged in his foraging expedition, and soon returned with a bunch of carrots in his mouth. Placing them in his shed, he went back and carefully closed the door, and began at his ease to munch the provender he had so cleverly got possession of.

### THE SAILOR WITH THE BROKEN LEG AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

A sailor, who reported a marvellous cure for a broken leg, was advised to communicate the case to the Royal Society. The account he gave was, that having fallen from the top of the mast and fractured his leg, he had dressed it with nothing but tar and oakum, and yet in three days was able to walk as well as before the accident. The Society very reasonably demanded a fuller relation, and some confirmation of the evidence. Many doubted whether the leg had been really broken. That part of the story, however, had been amply verified. Still, it was difficult to believe that the man had made use of no other applications than tar and oakum ; and how *they* could cure a broken leg in three days, even if they could cure it at all, was a matter of the utmost wonder. Several letters passed between the Society and the patient, who persevered in the most solemn assertions of having used no other remedies, and it appeared beyond a doubt that the man spoke the truth. But, charming was the plain, honest simplicity of the sailor : in a postscript to his last letter, he added these words : " I forgot to tell your honours that *the leg was a wooden one.*"

### PATIENCE.

One of the sorest trials that can happen to a man's temper is that which befel a celebrated natural philosopher while resid-

ing at Geneva. During twenty-seven years he had devoted much study to the barometer, and had recorded his observations daily on sheets prepared for the purpose. One day, when a new servant was installed in the house, she immediately proceeded to display her zeal by "putting things to rights." The study, amongst other rooms, was made tidy and set in order. When the philosopher entered it, he asked of the servant, "What have you done with the paper that was round the barometer?" "Oh, sir," was the reply, "it was so dirty that I burnt it, and put in its place this paper, which you will see is quite new." The loss was one of the greatest that could have occurred to the patient investigator; but he did not give way to passion. Crossing his arms, after a few moments of inward struggle, he said, in a tone of calmness and resignation: "You have destroyed the results of twenty-seven years' labour; in future touch nothing whatever in this room."

### A SILENT COMPANION.

Two passengers set out from their inn in London, early on a December morning. It was as dark as pitch; and one of them not being sleepy, and wishing for a little conversation, endeavoured, in the usual travelling mode, to engage his companion in discourse. "A very dark morning, sir," he said, questioningly, but no answer. "Shocking cold weather for travelling," he next remarked, but the same silence was preserved. He ventured a third remark with no better success. Not yet quite rebuffed, the sociable man made one more effort. He stretched out his hand, and feeling the other's coat, exclaimed, "What a very comfortable coat, sir, you have got to travel in!" No answer was made, and the inquirer, fatigued and disgusted, fell into a sound nap, from which he did not awake till the bright rays of a winter's sun were streaming into the coach. Then he became aware of the cause of his comrade's silence. To his astonished view the light presented the alarming spectacle of a large bear (luckily for him, muzzled and confined), in a sitting posture.

**AN HONEST MESSAGE-BOY.**

An old woman of St. Louis, in America, had by a lifetime of industry, thrift, and self-denial, contrived to save a sum of £200. As she was carrying the money through the streets to a bank for the purpose of investing it, she had the misfortune to lose it all. She retraced her steps, and searched and searched, but, of course, in vain. As may be imagined, her distress was very great. The money she had so laboriously collected to provide for her old age was gone; now she would have to go to the workhouse. She sat for hours bemoaning her loss, and next day she was still in despair. In the midst of her grief a knock came at the street door, which, on being opened, disclosed a bright-eyed boy, who held something in his right hand. This was the lost money, which he had found in the street the night before. He had heard the report of her loss, and had brought the treasure to her as soon as he had ascertained where she lived. The poor woman threw her arms around his neck and sobbed, "God bless you, my boy!" She gave him £10 as a reward for his honesty. The lad was a poor message-boy fifteen years old.

**A JUDGE TAKING HIS WIFE ON CIRCUIT.**

Lord Ellenborough was once about to go on circuit, when Lady Ellenborough said she would like to accompany him. He replied he had no objection, provided she did not encumber the carriage with bandboxes, which were his utter abhorrence. During the first day's journey, Lord Ellenborough, happening to stretch his legs, struck his foot against something below the seat. He discovered that it was a bandbox. Up went the window and out went the bandbox. The coachman stopped, and the footman, thinking that the bandbox had tumbled out of the window by some extraordinary chance, was going to pick it up, when Lord Ellenborough furiously called out, "Drive on!" The bandbox accordingly was left by the ditch-side. Having reached the county town where he was to officiate as judge,

Lord Ellenborough proceeded to array himself for his appearance in the court-house. "Now," said he, "where's my wig ; where is my wig ?" "My lord," replied his attendant, "it was thrown out of the carriage window."

### THE FAITHFUL BUFFALO.

A party of hunters were riding on the prairies, when two fine buffalo-bulls were seen proceeding along the opposite side of a stream. One of the hunters took aim at the nearest buffalo and the ball broke the animal's right hip. The hunter, leaping on his horse, put spurs to its flanks, and in three minutes he and his companions were close on the bull. To the astonishment of them all, the unhurt bull stuck to his comrade's side without flinching. Another shot was fired, which took effect in the lungs of the first buffalo. The second swerved aside for a moment, but instantly returned to his friend, and stood behind him with his head down offering battle. The wounded buffalo, thus protected by the brave creature, whose challenge the hunters could not think of accepting, struggled on to the border of the next marsh and fell headlong down the steep bank. Not till that moment, when courage was useless, did his faithful companion seek his own safety in flight. The hunters, touched by his devotion, took off their hats, and gave three parting cheers, as he vanished on the other side of the wood.

### RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL.

Two men, living in Africa, had a quarrel, and became bitter enemies to each other. Some time after, one of them found a little girl, named Amelia, the lovely daughter of his enemy, in the forest, several miles from her father's house. He seized her, cut off both her hands, and sent her home screaming with her bleeding wrists, saying to her, "I have had my revenge." Years rolled away ; little Amelia had grown to be a woman, when one day a poor, greyheaded old man called at her father's door, and asked for something to eat. Amelia at once

knew him to be the cruel man who had cut off her hands. She ordered bread and milk to be brought to him, as much as he could eat, and sat down and watched him eat it. When he had finished his meal, Amelia uncovered her helpless wrists, held them up, and said, "Now I have had *my* revenge."

### A STRANGE STORY.

Lord Eldon in his "Anecdote Book," relates the following singular circumstances of the identifying of a murderer. A murder had been committed, and, though every search was made, the murderer effected his escape. Twelve years afterwards, the brother of the murdered man was at Liverpool in a public-house. He fell asleep, and was awoken by some one picking his pocket. He started up, stared at the would-be pick-pocket, and exclaimed, "Good heavens! the man that killed my brother twelve years ago!" Assistance came to him, the man was secured and tried, and satisfactory evidence of his guilt being produced, he was condemned to death. At the trial it was ascertained that he had enlisted as a soldier and gone to India immediately after the deed was committed. He had just landed at Liverpool on his return, when his first act was to pick the pocket of the brother of the man he had murdered twelve years before. It was very extraordinary that the man, waking out of his sleep, should so instantly know him, and shows in how strange a way long-concealed crimes are often brought to light.

### AN ARMY SAVED BY ONE MAN.

During the Seven Years' War, an instance occurred of the bravery of a soldier, whose willing sacrifice of his life was the safety of a whole army. The king of France had taken the part of Austria, and had sent an army into Germany. A detachment from this army had been despatched to the front, and had taken up a strong position near the enemy. On the night of the 15th of October, 1760, a young officer of the Auvergne

regiment was sent out to scour the country in search of the enemy, and advanced alone into a wood, at some little distance from his men. Suddenly he found himself surrounded by a number of soldiers, whose bayonets pricked his breast, and a voice whispered in his ear, "Make the slightest noise, and you are a dead man!" In one moment, he understood it all. The enemy were advancing to surprise the French army, and would be upon them when night was farther advanced. That moment decided his fate. He shouted, as loud as his voice would carry the words, "Here, Auvergne! here are the enemy!" By the time the cry reached the ears of his men, their captain was a senseless corpse; but his death had saved the army; the surprise had failed, and the enemy retreated.

### THE GRATEFUL LION.

A remarkably handsome African lion was being taken to the coast, where it was to be shipped to France, when it fell ill. Its keepers, supposing that it would not recover, left it to die on the wild mountain-side which they were crossing. There it was found by a traveller, who had been shooting in the interior of the country. Seeing the condition of the noble-looking animal, he gave it some new milk from the goats which he had in his camp. The lion drank it eagerly, and at once began to revive, showing his gratitude by licking the hand of the benevolent stranger. The traveller continued his kind offices to the poor beast, which, in consequence of his care, completely recovered.

When the traveller moved on, the lion accompanied his camp, and became so attached to his benefactor that he followed him about everywhere, taking food from his hand, and being in every respect as tame as a dog.

### A VERY SINGULAR EXCUSE.

An Irishman, accused of having stolen a gun, was brought to justice. On the day of trial he was reflecting on what defence

he should make before the judge, when he saw a fellow prisoner return from the court, having been tried for stealing a goose. "Well," said the Irishman, "how have you come off?" "Oh!" replied the other, "I am acquitted." "What defence did you make?" "Why, I told the judge that I had brought up the goose from the time it was a gosling, and that I had witnesses to prove it." "Very good indeed," said the suspected gun-stealer, who was at that moment called into court to take his trial; "stay a short time for me, I shall soon be acquitted." He was then conducted to the bar, the accusation was read, and the judge asked him what he had to say in his defence. "My lord," replied the Irishman, "I have brought up that gun ever since it was a pistol, and I can bring witnesses to prove it." The judge, however, and the jury were not sufficiently credulous, and poor Paddy was condemned to be transported.

### THE TWO PEASANTS OF THE ALPS.

In illustration of the honesty and generosity of the Alpine peasants, the following story has been told:—"Frantz went one evening to Gospard, who was mowing his field. 'My friend,' said he, 'the time is come to get up this hay; you know there is a dispute about this meadow as to whom it belongs, to you or to me; to decide the question I have assembled together the appointed judges at a neighbouring village; so come with me to-morrow, and state your claims.' Gospard replied that he had cut the grass, that it must be taken up on the morrow, and that therefore he could not leave it. Frantz protested that he could not send away the judges, who had chosen the day themselves, and that they must know to whom the meadow belonged before it could be cleared. They debated some time. At length Gospard said to Frantz, 'Go to the place appointed, tell the judges my reasons, as well as *your own*, for claiming the meadow, and then I need not go myself.' So it was agreed. Frantz pleaded both for and against himself, and, to the best of his power, gave in his own claims as well as those of Gospard.

When the judges had pronounced their opinion, he returned to his friend, saying, 'The meadow is yours ; the sentence is in your favour, and I wish you joy.' Frantz and Gaspard ever afterwards remained friends."

### THE DANGER OF BEING UNGRATEFUL.

An Indian prince, who was very fond of going on the water, had one day the misfortune to fall into a river. He was drowning, when a slave plunged in, caught him by the hair of his head, dragged him to the shore, and saved his life. When he had recovered his senses, he called for the man who had drawn him out of the water, and finding him to be a slave, he said, "How dare you profane the sacred head of your sovereign lord by placing your unworthy hand upon it?" "Sire," said he, "it was to save your life." "Slave," replied the prince, "you have polluted it ;" and he immediately ordered him to be put to death.

Some time after, the prince, in stepping from one boat to another, fell again into the water, and finding no one attempted to save him, he called out for assistance ; but the only answer he received was, "Remember how you rewarded the slave who saved your life before." Being unable to swim, the ungrateful prince sank to rise no more, and thus was punished for his base ingratitude.

### CUNNING CROWS.

A case of remarkable intelligence on the part of crows is recorded by the author of "The Natural History of Ceylon." One of these covetous birds, after vainly endeavouring, by dancing before him, to divert the attention of a watch-dog that was lazily gnawing a bone, at length flew away. In a very short time he returned, bringing a companion, which perched itself on a branch a few yards in the rear. The crow's grimaces and attempts to draw away the dog from his bone were now actively renewed, but with no better success. Its confederate, however, had been watching the proceedings, and, seeing that the first tactics had

failed, came cunningly to its help. Poising itself on its wings, it descended with the utmost speed, striking the dog upon the spine with all the force of its strong beak. The stratagem was successful; the dog started with surprise and pain, but not quickly enough to seize his assailant, whilst the bone he had been gnawing was snatched away by the first crow the instant his head was turned. There can be no doubt that this device was arranged between the two crows, and carried out in concert.

### **THE SAXON SURGEON AT THE BATTLE OF WAGRAM.**

At the beginning of the battle of Wagram, a Saxon surgeon had his leg shattered by a shell, and was stretched on the ground in terrible agony. While lying there he saw, about fifteen paces from him, a staff officer of his acquaintance, who, struck by a bullet, had fallen and was vomiting blood. The surgeon perceived that the officer must speedily die, unless assistance was promptly forthcoming. There was no one near to whom he could appeal for help, and wounded and suffering as he was, he determined to make a supreme effort to save the life that was passing away so near him. He summoned together all his power, dragged himself along the ground until he approached the officer, and bled him. The operation was the means of saving the officer's life, but the effort proved to be too great for the self-sacrificing surgeon. When picked up from beside the soldier, whom he had so heroically tended, he was removed to Vienna, but he was so much exhausted that he only survived four days after the amputation of his leg.

### **TREACHERY DISCOVERED.**

On one occasion a deputy was sent by the Sultan of Morocco to reduce some provinces to submission. When he arrived, a grand entertainment was given to him by the refractory chiefs, and immense quantities of provisions were sent in to furnish his table. Among the provisions there was a large supply of a par-

ticular dish of which the deputy was known to be very fond, and this was all poisoned. The deputy, suspecting from the chiefs' importunity for him to eat of it that it was poisoned, ordered his soldiers to guard the doors and let no one escape, and then called upon the chiefs one by one to partake of the dish. Most of the chiefs refused to eat, but some few came cheerfully forward at the deputy's call. Those who came cheerfully forward were not allowed to eat ; those who refused were compelled. Thus the deputy in one day got rid of his enemies, and saved his friends, whom he rewarded by putting into their hands the management of the revolted provinces.

### **THE LOAF AND ITS HIDDEN TREASURE.**

One evening a poor man and his son, a little boy, sat by the wayside near the gate of an old town in Germany. The father took out a loaf of bread which he had bought in the town, and broke it to give half to his boy. As he was doing so, there fell out several large pieces of gold of great value. The little boy gave a shout of joy, and was springing forward to grasp the unexpected treasure, when his father pulled him back. "My son, my son," he cried, "do not touch that money ; it is not ours. It was probably put there by mistake. Run and call the baker." The boy reluctantly did as he was told, and when the baker came, the old man explained to him how the gold had been found, and inquired if it was his. The baker gazed in turn upon the honest father and his son and upon the gold which lay glittering on the green turf. "You are indeed an honest fellow," said he, "and I shall tell you about the gold. A stranger came to my shop three days ago, and gave it to me to sell it cheap, or give it away to the most honest poor man I could find in the city. I told a friend to send you to me this morning, he having assured me that no more honest man than you could be found in the town. As you would not take the loaf for nothing, I sold it to you for the last pence in your purse. The loaf with all its treasure is yours ; take it, and a blessing be with it ! I could indeed have found no truer honesty."

**THE LOVING MOCKING-BIRDS.**

A traveller, strolling through the woods in America, suddenly became aware of the presence of six or seven mocking birds in front of him. They were busily occupied on the ground with something which he found, as they flew away, to be the dead body of one of their number. These loving birds had almost covered it with leaves, sticks, and little bits of grass, just like the pretty story of the Babes in the Wood ; and when disturbed, its feet only were uncovered. Anxious to see what its companions would do, the man moved to a tree some distance away, and from his hiding-place watched them come back one by one to bury the dead bird. They hopped about, picking leaves and grass, chirping a melancholy note, as if singing the solemn music of their little mate's funeral ; and for full half an hour they continued working steadily on, till their friend was completely hidden from view. They then flew away, leaving, in the little burial mound they had raised, a proof of loving attention to the dead and of faithful friendship which deserves to be recorded.

**THE SELF-DENIAL OF ALEXANDER.**

Alexander, surnamed the Great, king of Macedon, was one of the most victorious generals of ancient times. During his short reign of twelve years, he conquered nearly the whole of the then known Eastern world, besides adding to his dominions in Europe. His success, like that of Napoleon, he largely attributed to his personal influence over his troops. He used to bear his full share of hardships, often to walk on foot with his men, and to give them examples of fortitude. On one occasion, during his campaign in India, some soldiers, who had been sent to search for water, found a little in the bed of a dried torrent, and brought it in a helmet to the king. Alexander was parched and faint with thirst, but he could not bring himself to indulge in a luxury which others were not to share. Whilst many were gazing on him, longing, doubtless, that they could be in his place, he took the helmet from the soldier, and

poured the contents on the ground. A noble act of self-denial like this served to enhance yet further the love and veneration felt for him by the soldiers.

### THE HORSE AND THE BEETROOT.

When Louis XI. was Dauphin of France, he used frequently, in his walks, to visit the family of a peasant, and partake of their frugal meals. Some time after the accession of this prince to the throne of France, the peasant presented him with an extraordinary beetroot, the production of his garden. Louis, to reward the poor man for his attention, and to show that he had not forgotten the rustic cottage, gave him a thousand crowns. The village squire, on hearing of the peasant's good luck, thought if he gave a good horse to the king, his fortune would be made. He therefore procured a very handsome one, went to the palace, and begged the king to do him the honour of accepting it. Louis thanked him for his polite attention, and ordered one of his pages to fetch the beetroot. When it was brought, he presented it to the squire, saying: "Sir, as you seem to be an admirer of the works of nature, I beg you to accept one of its extraordinary productions. I paid a thousand crowns for this root, which cannot be matched, and I am happy to have so good an opportunity of rewarding your *disinterested* loyalty."

### A FORTUNE SACRIFICED.

There is a short story told by Leigh Hunt of a striking instance of self-sacrificing devotion to the principles of justice and honour. A gentleman of large fortune bequeathed an estate of £4,000 a year to his niece, but, from some unexplained cause, left his next male heir and near relation entirely unprovided for. With such a fortune, and at a time of life when the capacity for enjoyment is greatest, the majority of mankind would have devoted themselves to self-gratification with scarce a thought of the disinherited relative. But the niece in this case thought otherwise. Mere negligence or resentment, which

could neither be explained or understood, might have been the cause of the exclusion of the rightful heir from her uncle's will, and to retain the property seemed to her unjust. She declared that the income she already possessed was adequate to all her wishes, and all her wants, and reserving only a little villa in Berkshire, endeared to her by early habits and happy memories, she made over the bequest to her neglected cousin, a free gift, neither expected nor demanded, and not worth less than £100,000.

### SHAVING.

A fireman, in Pennsylvania, went into a barber's shop to get shaved, and finding the barber out, he determined to have a little fun before his return. So he took off his coat, put on a thinner one, and quietly waited for a customer. An old gentleman came in soon.

"Have a shave, sir?" said our pretended barber.

The old gentleman took a chair, and our artist began to lather, expecting every moment the barber would appear. Five minutes passed, and no barber. Ten minutes, no barber. Now the old gentleman felt pretty well lathered. Five minutes more, no barber; the old gentleman's face was almost lost to view under the white froth. Five more, still no barber; the fireman began to get desperate, and conceived a bright idea. Putting up his brush, he quickly changed his coat again, took his hat, and was about to quietly slip out behind the gentleman's back, when he turned his head, and exclaimed:—

"Here, sir; aren't you going to shave me?"

"No, sir," promptly replied our departing friend; "the fact is, we only lather here, sir; they shave four doors below."

### A GOOD OLD MAN.

In one of the German wars, a captain of cavalry was out on a foraging party. On perceiving a cottage in the midst of a solitary valley, he went up and knocked at the door. Out came an old man with a beard silvered by age. "Father," says the

officer, "show me a field where I can set my troopers a-foraging." "Yes," replied the old man, and walking on he conducted them out of the valley. After a quarter of an hour's march, they came upon a fine field of barley. "There is the very thing we want," said the captain. "Have patience for a few minutes," replied his guide, "you shall be satisfied." They went on, and at length reached another field of barley. The troop immediately dismounted, cut down the grain, trussed it up, and remounted. The officer, upon this, said to his conductor, "Father, you have given yourself and us unnecessary trouble—the first field was much better than this." "Very true, sir," replied the good man; "but it was not *mine*."

### DESPERATE PATRIOTISM.

During the wars of Napoleon in Spain, a regiment of his soldiers arrived under the walls of a Spanish monastery. The general sent a message to the prior to demand refreshment for his officers and men. The prior replied that the men would find good quarters in the town, but that he and his monks would entertain the general and his staff. About an hour afterwards a plentiful dinner was served; but the general, knowing by experience how necessary it was for the French to be on their guard when eating and drinking with Spaniards, invited the prior and two of the monks to dine with him. The invitation was accepted in such a manner as to lull suspicion; the monks sat down to table and ate and drank plentifully with their guests. When the dinner was finished, the prior rose and said: "Gentlemen, if you have any worldly affairs to settle, there is no time to lose; this is the last meal you and I shall take on earth: in an hour we shall know the secrets of the world to come." The prior and his two monks had put deadly poison into the wine which they and the French officers had drunk, and, notwithstanding the remedies given by the doctors, in less than an hour every man, hosts and guests, had ceased to live.

**THE GOOD-NATURED BEAR AND THE CHILDREN.**

Some peasants in Siberia one day lost two of their children, between four and six years of age. Having proceeded some distance in search of them, they caught sight of a large animal, which, as they got nearer, they discovered to be a brown bear. What was their horror to see their lost young ones quite close to it. Their dismay, however, was in some degree changed to astonishment, when they saw the children running about, laughing round the bear, sometimes taking it by the paws, and sometimes pulling it by the tail. The monster, evidently amused by their behaviour, treated them in the most affectionate manner. One of the children now produced some fruit, with which it fed its shaggy playfellow, while the other climbed up on its back, and sat there fearlessly urging its strange steed to move on. The parents at length gave way to cries of terror, when the little boy slipped off the bear's back, and the animal, hearing the sound of their voices, retreated quietly into the forest.

**THE LOST CHILD.**

A lady in London had an only son, a sweet little fellow of four or five years of age, who one morning went to the door to play, and never returned. His mother and friends sought him all over the vast city. Advertisements were put into the newspapers, and placards posted on the walls concerning him; but all their efforts were in vain. The mother at length gave him up, and wept for him as for one that is dead. A few years afterwards, the lady answered a knock at the door. Before her stood a little sweep, with bag and brush, tattered clothes, and sooty face and hands. "Want chimney sweeping, ma'am? Come to-morrow morning?" The lady started as if transfixed to the spot. The sweep repeated his inquiry. It was enough. Regardless of the rags and the soot that defiled him, she clasped him in her arms, for in the forlorn and friendless sweep she had recognised her long lost boy.

**"THY NEED IS GREATER THAN MINE."**

During the wars that raged from 1652 to 1660, between the Danes and the Swedes, a sharply contested battle was fought, in which the victory remained with the Danes. After the engagement, a stout Danish burgher was about to refresh himself, before retiring to have his wounds dressed, with a draught of beer from a wooden bottle, when an imploring cry from a wounded Swede, lying on the field, made him turn, and saying, "Thy need is greater than mine," he knelt down by the fallen enemy, to pour the liquor into his mouth. His reward was a pistol-shot in the shoulder from the treacherous Swede. "Rascal," he cried, "I would have befriended you, and you would murder me in return ! Now I will punish you. I would have given you the whole bottle ; but now you shall have only half," and drinking off half himself, he gave the rest to the Swede. The king, hearing the story, sent for the burgher, and asked him how he came to spare the life of such a rascal.

"Sire," said the honest burgher, "I could never kill a wounded enemy."

"Thou meritest to be a noble," said the king, and he created him one immediately.

**THE CAT WHICH RANG THE BELL.**

This cat lived in a convent in France. She observed that when a certain bell was rung, all the inmates assembled for their meals, when she also received her food. One day she was shut up in a room by herself, when she heard the bell ring, and the door was not opened for some hours. Off she hurried to the place where she expected to find her dinner, but none was there. She was very hungry, and hunger is said to sharpen the wits. She knew where the rope hung which pulled the bell in the belfry. Appearing to believe that there was some connection between the pulling of this rope and her dinner, she sprang on to it. Her weight on the rope made the bell ring ; again she jerked and the bell rang again. The nuns hearing the bell

ring at so unusual an hour, came hurrying into the belfry, when what was their surprise to see the cat turned bell-ringer ! They puzzled their heads for some time, till the sister who generally gave the cat her meals recollected that she had not been present at dinner-time. Thus the mystery was solved and pussy was rewarded for her exertions by having her supper brought to her without delay.

### THE HONOUR OF A HIGHLANDMAN.

In Sir Walter Scott's novel, "Waverley," a touching instance is told of the feelings of devotion and honour by which the Highland clansmen were bound to their chief. When Fergus Mac-Ivor and his faithful henchman, Evan Maccombich, were sentenced to death at Carlisle for the share they had taken in the rebellion of 1745, the latter was asked by the judge what excuse he had to offer for his crime. Instead of attempting to justify himself he only begged the Court to let his chief, Fergus Mac-Ivor, go free, saying that he would go down to his clan and fetch up six of the very best men to die in his stead, and that he himself wished to be the first to suffer. Notwithstanding the solemnity of the occasion, a sort of laugh was heard in the court at the extraordinary nature of the proposal. The judge checked this unseemly behaviour, and Evan looking sternly around, when the murmur abated : " If the Saxon gentlemen are laughing," he said, " because a poor man, such as I, thinks my life, or the life of six of my degree, is worth that of Fergus Mac-Ivor, it's like enough they may be very right ; but if they laugh because they think I would not keep my word, and come back to redeem him, I can tell them they ken neither the heart of a Highlandman, nor the honour of a gentleman."

### THE IRISH HORSE AND THE INFANT.

Some horses in the county of Limerick, which were pastured in a field, broke bounds like a band of unruly schoolboys, and scrambling through a gap which they had made in a fence,

found themselves in a lane. Along the quiet by-road they galloped helter-skelter, at full speed, snorting and tossing their manes in the full enjoyment of their freedom, but greatly to the terror of a party of children who were playing in the lane. As the horses were seen tearing wildly along, the children scrambled up the bank into the hedge,—with the exception of one poor little thing, who, too small to run, fell down on its face, and lay crying loudly in the middle of the narrow way. On swept the horses ; but when the leader of the troop saw the little child lying in his path, he suddenly stopped, and so did the others behind him. Then stooping his head, he seized the infant's clothes with his teeth, and carefully lifted it to the side of the road, laying it gently and quite unhurt on the tender grass. He and his companions then resumed their gallop in the lane, unconscious of having performed a remarkable act.

### POWER OF THE EYE.

A party of gentlemen were one day dining with Lord Spencer, at Wimbledon, and among them was George Pitt, afterwards Lord Rivers. The conversation, after dinner, turned on the power of the human eye in overawing wild animals, and Pitt declared that he could tame the most furious animal by looking at it steadily. Lord Spencer said, "Well, there is a mastiff in the courtyard here, which is the terror of the neighbourhood ; will you try your powers on him ?" Pitt agreed to do so ; and the company descended into the courtyard. A servant held the mastiff by a chain. Pitt knelt down at a short distance from the animal, and stared him sternly in the face. So infuriated did the dog seem that all the other bystanders shuddered, and wished the experiment to be abandoned. Pitt, however, persisted, and at a given signal the mastiff was let loose. He rushed furiously towards Pitt—then suddenly checked his pace, seemed confounded, and, instead of attacking Pitt, leapt over his head, ran away, and was not seen for many hours afterwards.

### FIGHT WITH A MAD DOG.

A French weaver, of the name of Simon Albony, was coming home from his work in the summer of the year 1830, at about seven o'clock in the evening, when he encountered a mad dog, which had already injured several of the townspeople. The creature was advancing slowly, but suddenly bounded towards him. Setting his back against a wall, he courageously waited for it, and laid hold of it, though not without being severely bitten. He kept it with a firm hand, shouting that he would not let it go to do further mischief, but that some one must bring him an axe, and break its back. A mounted policeman heard him, and, hastening to his help, found him struggling with this large hound, holding him by the neck and ears. The policeman struck the dog with his stick, but it was not strong enough to kill it; and another person came up with a heavier club, and gave it a finishing stroke. Albony had received fourteen wounds on the body, thighs, and hands; but they were immediately operated upon, and when (seven months afterwards) he received a prize for his heroism, no bad effects had appeared.

### THE GOOD ARCHBISHOP.

Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambray, in France, was a man of the finest feelings and the greatest kindness. The consequence was that he won the hearts of both friends and foes. His diocese was often the theatre of war: but the English, Germans, and Dutch even surpassed the inhabitants in their love and veneration for him, and his dwellings were always safe. The following is an instance of his great kindness. He observed one day that a peasant, who had been driven from his home, and to whom Fenelon had given shelter, ate nothing. He inquired the reason. "Alas! my lord," said the poor man, "in making my escape from my cottage, I had not time to bring off my cow, which was the support of my family. The enemy will drive her away, and I shall never find another so good." Fenelon, avail-

ing himself of his privilege of safe conduct, immediately set out in search of the cow, accompanied by a single servant. He found her and drove her back himself to the peasant. By actions such as this, he so endeared himself to the peasantry that, long after his death, their tears would flow when they said, pointing to the chair he used to occupy when he came to visit them, "There is the chair on which our good archbishop used to sit in the midst of us ; we shall see him no more."

### **A SINGULAR JUSTIFICATION.**

A reaper being at work in a field in Devonshire, near the banks of a river, saw a man throw himself into the water. He ran directly to his assistance, plunged in, and brought him to the shore. Having left him and returned to his work, he very soon saw him again leap in. A second time the reaper jumped into the river, and, with difficulty, rescued him. He then recommended him to go home, and not attempt such a foolish action as to drown himself. The reaper resumed his labour, but in a short time saw the same man hang himself to the branch of a tree. Finding him so determined to kill himself, he resolved to take no more trouble about him, but to let him hang. Some time after, the relations of the man came in search of him, and finding him hanging dead on the tree, they reproached the reaper, saying, that he must have seen him do it, and ought to have cut him down. "Not I, indeed," replied he ; "I had already drawn him twice out of the river, and having left him dripping wet, I supposed he had hung himself up there to dry."

### **A DOG HELPING HIS INJURED FRIEND.**

A large dog was playing in the road near a country village, when a carriage went over one of his paws. He howled so piteously that some farriers who were at work in a shop close by came out to see what was the matter. One of them perceiving that the poor thing was much hurt, took him up, dressed his paw, and wrapped it up, after which he let him go. The dog

went home, where he remained during some days ; but at length, his paw becoming painful, he returned to the farrier's, and, holding it up, moaned to show that it pained him. The farrier dressed it again ; and the dog, after licking his hand to show his gratitude, returned home, and the paw in a short time was well.

Some months after, the same dog was playing with another, not far from the spot, and a similar accident happened to the latter ; upon which he took the injured dog by the ear, and with much difficulty led him to the farrier's shop, where he had been so well doctored. The workmen were much amused at the sagacity of the animal, and paid as much attention to the new patient as they had to the former one.

### **REGULUS, THE ROMAN.**

The following story has been told of a Roman consul named Regulus. Having been taken prisoner by the enemies of his country, the Carthaginians, he was sent to Rome with some envoys to sue for peace, on the condition that he should return to his prison if peace were not effected. He took the oath, and swore that he would come back.

When he appeared at Rome he urged his countrymen to persevere in the war, and not to agree to the exchange of prisoners, though he knew that such a course involved his return to captivity. The senators and even the chief priest held that his oath had been wrested from him by force, and tried to dissuade him from returning. "Have you resolved to dishonour me?" asked Regulus. "I am not ignorant that death and tortures are preparing for me ; but what are these to the shame of an infamous action, or the wounds of a guilty mind ? Slave as I am to Carthage, I have still the spirit of a Roman. I have sworn to return. It is my duty to go. Let the gods take care of the rest." Regulus returned to Carthage, and died under the most excruciating tortures.

### **A PRISONER HELPING HIS COUNSEL.**

A prisoner, seventeen years old, was charged in a Scotch court with picking a gentleman's pocket. The evidence seemed clear, and the prosecuting counsel argued that the prisoner's guilt was proved. To this the prisoner listened with indifference, but when the counsel who defended him stood up to address the jury, the prisoner leaned forward with the greatest interest. The eloquent counsel tried to shake the evidence of the opposing witnesses, and warming with his subject, exclaimed: "If this young man had taken the money, where, I ask, could he have placed it? Not in his pockets, for you know they were likely first to be examined! Not in his shoes, for these, too, would for a certainty be examined! Where then, I say, gentlemen of the jury, where could this lad have stowed away the money? Where was there a place he could have found to hide it away?" At this point the counsel paused rather longer than usual, and the prisoner, fearing that his counsel was actually waiting for assistance, exclaimed: "I put it in here, sir!" pointing to an inside pocket.

### **THE COMPASSIONATE DOG WHICH SAVED PUSSY'S LIFE.**

A number of rough boys in Liverpool had stoned a cat, and dragged it through a pool of water, no one of the many passers-by attempting to stop them. A dog coming up was moved with pity at the brutal proceedings, which ought to have induced the human beings who witnessed it to interfere. Barking furiously, he rushed in among the boys, and then carried off the ill-used cat in his mouth, bleeding and almost senseless, to his kennel at the Talbot Inn, to which he belonged. He there laid it on the straw, licked it till it was clean, and then stretched himself on it, as if to impart to it some of his own warmth. On its beginning to revive, he set out to obtain food for it, when the people of the inn noticing his behaviour, gave his patient some warm milk.

Some days passed before the cat recovered, and during the

whole time the dog never remitted in his attentions to it. The cat, in return, exhibited the warmest gratitude to the dog, and for many years afterwards they were seen going about the streets of Liverpool together.

### THE HERO OF SEMPACH.

In 1481 the Austrians invaded Switzerland, and a comparatively small number of men determined to resist them. Near the little town of Sempach the Austrians were observed advancing in a solid compact body, presenting an unbroken line of spears. The Swiss met them, but their spears were shorter, and being much fewer in number they were compelled to give way. Observing this and seeing that all the efforts of the Swiss to break the ranks of their enemies had failed, the heroic leader of the little band exclaimed to his followers, "I will open a path to freedom! Protect, dear comrades, my wife and children!" He rushed forward, and, gathering in his arms as many spears as he could grasp, he buried them in his bosom. He fell, but a gap was made, and the Swiss rushed in and gained a glorious victory. The leader died, but saved his country. The battle took place on the 9th of July, and on this day the people of the country still assemble to celebrate their deliverance from the Austrians, through the self-sacrifice of their leader.

### LOST WILLIE.

A poor boy employed in Scotland to keep sheep was overtaken on the hills by a severe snowstorm. Long and bravely he kept up, and tried to drive his flock towards home by taking note of the landmarks he knew. All in vain: the snow fell fast, and before night all traces of paths and roads were lost, and poor Willie found himself alone in the hills with his sheep. As the night wore on, the fatal drowsiness began to creep over him, beyond his power to resist, and without a scrap of shelter he lay himself down among his sheep to sleep and die, for he was sure he would never more wake on earth. With a smothered

prayer for help he fell asleep, and as he lay there, more sheep came and huddled round him. Strange, indeed, as it may seem, the warmth from their bodies kept him from being frozen to death.

A party from home went in search of him, and they found him surrounded by a dozen old sheep, whose instincts had saved his life. In keeping themselves warm, they had kept warmth and life in him. And he lived many years to tell this anecdote of his boyhood's peril, when lost on the wild northern hillside.

### **THE WOUNDED SOLDIER AND HIS COMRADE.**

An American soldier had been wounded on the battle-field and had been carried on board a ship for conveyance to a hospital. His wounds gave him great pain, and the jolting over a rough road and the hoisting on board ship made his sufferings dreadful. But even when he was placed on the deck, he had not yet reached a place of rest. He had to be let down into the hold of the ship, and then carried away to a bed. Every movement added to his anguish, and he moaned at the continued torture. In the cabin there were three tiers of berths, one above another, and all the bottom ones were full. It was necessary to hoist him again, and, to lessen his pain, he was placed on the middle tier. How grateful he felt, when at last they ceased to lift and twist his racked body ! Just as he was beginning to rest a little, they carried in another wounded soldier, pale and bleeding. The only bed left for the poor fellow was on the top shelf, and to this he must be lifted up. The soldier, whose wounds were now acting a little less, remembered that he had been spared the pain of being lifted up so high, and, moved with pity for his comrade, exclaimed to the carriers : " Stop ! I reckon I'll stand hoisting better than he will. Hoist me up there." And he insisted on his request being complied with.

### **THE HORSE AND THE INJURED CARMAN.**

A carman, on going to a hay-loft up a ladder, overbalanced himself on gaining the last step, and fell to the ground on his

head. He remained where he fell for two hours in an insensible condition. During the time he was lying there, several persons who had missed him called him, but received no answer. Near where the injured carman lay was an old horse that was much attached to him, locked in a stable. He, hearing the man moaning for such a length of time, contrived, by kicking with his hind-legs, to burst the door open. Going to the sufferer, the horse caressed him in the most affectionate manner, and caught hold in its mouth of a mackintosh which he had on, and dragged him to the manger. The poor man was then enabled to lay hold of the horse's mane, owing to its putting its head down, and by these means he got up and crawled home, where he soon after expired.

### THE KITTEN AND THE JUDGE'S WIG.

It was the practice of the old Scotch judges to robe themselves in their own houses, and walk in full costume to the court, which in those days was quite near their houses or flats. When dressed, the judge often looked out of his window to see what o'clock it was before starting. One day Lord Coalston was looking out, when suddenly his wig rose off his head, and ascended without any visible cause into the air, and his astonishment was very great. It turned out that two girls on the upper floor of the house had been playing with a kitten, and letting it down with a string. Just at the moment that the judge popped his head out, the kitten, in its desperation to gain a footing, clutched what it came in contact with, held it in a death-grip, and ascended in triumph, to the intense astonishment of the reverend owner below, who could neither see the kitten nor the giggling and terrified girls above. Laughable though the incident was, it is to be hoped that the terror which the girls felt and the punishment they received, prevented them from ever again indulging in the cruel trick of dangling a kitten in the air by a piece of string.

### **BRAVERY OF DEAL BOATMEN.**

Not many years ago, during a violent storm, a collier-brig, off Deal, was driven from her anchors and struck the ground at a considerable distance from the shore. The sea swept clean over her, and such was the fury of the wind and the violence of the waves, that there seemed no hope whatever of saving the crew. But the daring of the Deal boatmen did not fail them at this critical moment. No sooner had the brig grounded than one of the boatmen assembled along the beach cried out, "Who will come with me and try to save that crew?" Instantly twenty volunteers sprang forward. But seven only were wanted; and running down a boat into the surf, they leaped in and dashed through the breakers, amidst the cheers of those on shore. How the boat lived in such a sea seemed a miracle; but, handled with the skill and impelled by the strong arms of those gallant men, she flew on, and, in a few minutes, reached the stranded ship. Watching their opportunity between the breaking of the waves, they approached near enough to take off the crew of six men; and in less than a quarter of an hour from the time the boat left the shore, the rescued crew were landed safely by their dauntless rescuers on Walmer Beach.

### **THE KIND COW AND THE SHEEP.**

Some gentlemen once witnessed a curious instance of animal sagacity as they were taking a walk on a hill near Coventry. They observed some sheep standing round the head of a cow and looking intently at her as she was quietly grazing. The fixed attitude of the sheep attracted the attention of the gentlemen, and as they drew nearer the cow suddenly raised her head, and the sheep opened a passage for her to pass through them. She had not walked a dozen yards before she reached a large ewe, which had fallen on her back and was unable to rise. The cow gently placed her head under the hide of the poor sheep and gave it a slight toss, so cleverly that the ewe was immediately enabled to get upon her feet. After a "Ba-ba" of thanks, and a

"Moo-moo" of "you're welcome," the two animals walked quietly away, and in the meantime the other sheep, which had attracted the attention of the cow to the situation of their distressed companion, had dispersed.

### **A HAPPY EXPRESSION. UNEXPECTED POLITENESS.**

In 1793, when Bonaparte was besieging Toulon, which was then in the possession of the English, he was one day directing the construction of a battery. The enemy perceived it, and commenced a warm fire upon it. Bonaparte, wishing to send off a despatch, asked for a sergeant who could write. A sergeant immediately came out of the ranks and wrote a letter under his dictation. It was scarcely finished when a cannon-ball fell between Bonaparte and the sergeant, and covered them with dust. The latter, looking towards the English lines, said, "Gentlemen, I thank you, I did not think you were so polite. I wanted a little sand to dry the ink on my letter."

The expression, and the calmness of the sergeant, struck Napoleon, and he did not forget it. The sergeant was soon promoted, and rose step by step till he finally became a general. His name is again and again to be found in the annals of French glory, and, owing to his courage and perseverance, he ended his days with the title and dignity of Duke of Abrantes.

### **FINE FEELING OF ALPHONSO, KING OF ARAGON.**

Alphonso, king of Aragon, went one day, it is said, to a jeweller's to purchase some diamonds for presents to a foreign prince. He was accompanied by several courtiers, and the jeweller spread his finest diamonds and precious stones before them without hesitation. The prince after making his purchases retired; but he had scarcely left the house when the jeweller came after him, and requested that he would do him the honour to return for a moment, as a diamond of great value had been taken by some one of his attendants. Alphonso

looked sternly at those who accompanied him, saying, "Whichever of you has stolen the diamond, he deserves the most severe punishment ; but the publication of his name might perhaps tarnish the reputation of an honourable family ; I will spare them that disgrace." He then desired the jeweller to bring a large pot full of bran. When it was brought he ordered every one of his attendants to plunge his right hand, closed, into the pot, and to draw it out quite open. It was done, and the bran being sifted, the diamond was found. The prince then addressed them, saying, "Gentlemen, I will not suspect any one among you ; I will forget the affair : the person in fault cannot escape the torment of his guilty conscience."

### A QUEER NESTING-PLACE.

The officer who sent home the report of the following incident from South Africa, was one whose duty it was to buy fresh horses for the cavalry. On one occasion he purchased a horse a long distance from the camp, and it was driven in with others and placed with the horses of the Dragoon Guards. Next morning the officer in charge noticed a little bird, which the natives called a weaver or bottle-tit, fly and conceal itself in the horse's tail. Presently it came out again and flew to the ground, where some corn had been spilt ; it fed for a time, and then flew back to its hiding-place. This aroused the officer's curiosity, and, together with some of the men, he examined the horse's tail, and found a perfect little nest, some three inches across, beautifully made and lined with soft hair from the draught oxen.

The most striking thing about the occurrence is the fact that the bird must have followed the horse all through its long journey of several days, since there was not sufficient time for the building of the nest after its arrival. Of all the queer nesting-places chosen by birds, a horse's tail is surely the strangest !

### **A CURIOUS DECISION; OR, SMELLING AND HEARING.**

A poor chimney-sweeper stopped one day before an eating-house to regale his nose with the smell of the victuals. The cook told him several times to go away, and at last, taking hold of him, declared that, as he had been feeding upon the smell of his victuals, he should not go away without paying half the price of a dinner. The poor little fellow said that he could not pay, and a police officer happening to pass at the time, the case was referred to him. He said to the sweep : " My boy, as you have been regaling one of your senses with the odour of this man's meat, it is right that you, in your turn, should regale one of his senses. How much money have you ? " " I have only two pence in all the world, sir. " " Never mind," said the officer, " take your two pence between your hands, and rattle them loudly. " The boy did so, and the officer, turning to the cook, said : " Now, sir, I think he has paid you ; the smell of your victuals regaled his nostrils, the sound of his money has tickled your ears. " The decision gave more satisfaction to the bystanders than to the cook, but it was the only payment he could obtain.

### **INTEGRITY OF A SOLDIER.**

A king of Northumberland, named Anlaff, having been deprived of his kingdom by Athelstan, king of the West Saxons, assembled a numerous force and marched to attack the invader. Wishing to learn the strength and number of his enemies Anlaff disguised himself as a harper, and went into Athelstan's camp. He even gained admittance to the tent of the king, who rewarded him for his playing, and afterwards left the camp unrecognised except by a single soldier. As soon as the pretended harper was gone, this soldier presented himself before Athelstan, and said, " Sire, the harper, whom you have so handsomely rewarded, is no other than Anlaff, your mortal enemy. " .

"Traitor !" replied the king, "why did you not tell me that while he was in my power ?"

"Because," answered the soldier, "I am not a traitor. I have served in his army, and have sworn never to betray him ; if I had done it, I should be as capable of betraying you ; but I advise you to alter your plans before you give battle." Athelstan followed the soldier's advice, and changed his quarters to another part of the camp. That same night a party of Anlaff's troops entered the camp and murdered all who were in the tent that Athelstan had left. The soldier was thus the means of saving the king's life, while honourably refusing to violate his oath to his former chief.

### THE PEARL FISHER.

A pearl diver had plunged into eleven fathoms of water in the expectation of finding some peculiarly fine pearls. He was pursuing his search, when, seeing the water suddenly darken, he looked up, and to his horror beheld at some distance above him an enormous shark watching his movements. The diver made a dart forward towards a rock, where he thought he might elude the eye of the monster ; but the shark followed quietly, evidently determined to eat him the moment he rose. There only seemed to be a choice between being eaten alive and being suffocated, when the thought suddenly came into his mind to puzzle his pursuer by a contrivance which he knew the cuttle-fish adopted. He threw himself upon the ground, and with the stick, which all divers carry, began to make the water muddy. A cloud of mire rose between him and the shark. He instantly struck out under cover of the cloud, and, when he thought that he had cleared his enemy, shot up to the surface. By great luck he rose in the midst of the fishing boats. The people, accustomed to perils of this kind, saw that he must have been in danger, and commenced splashing with their oars and shouting to drive the shark away. They succeeded in their efforts, and the diver was taken on board, almost dying from the dreadful exertion of remaining so long under water.

**SELF-DEVOTION AT GREAT YARMOUTH.**

One stormy evening in March, as the people were coming out of church at Great Yarmouth, a signal gun was heard from a vessel on the Groby sand. The ship had struck on the sand, and the waves were washing over her. The seamen were at once on the beach, and prepared to launch a yawl. While they were waiting for a lull to run the boat through the surf, a young beachman ran up and jerked one of the yawl's crew from his post. "No, no, Jack, not this time," he said; "you've been out three times already because I've got married. Fair's fair—so now I'll take my spell again." The boat was launched, and was just clearing the surf, when a breaker lifted her up and flung her completely over. Three of the crew were drowned, and one of them was the newly-married man, who had refused to let his brother take his place. Without a moment's delay another yawl was got ready for launching; she was pushed out to sea, but it was too late. The ship on the sand had gone to pieces, and all hands were lost.

**DOG WAKING UP SERVANTS.**

The following clever trick has been told of a dog named Dash. When any of the servants of the family had to sit up for their master or mistress, and fell asleep in their chair, scarcely would they have settled themselves when the parlour bell would be heard to ring. They were greatly puzzled to account for this, and in vain attempted to solve the mystery. One day a messenger with a letter was shown into the parlour, where he was about to sit down, when his ears were saluted by a growl, and there before him he saw Dash, seated in a chair near the fireplace. The dog was within reach of the ring of the bell-pull, and, whenever the man attempted to sit down, Dash put up his paw on the ring and growled again. At length the stranger, curious to see what the dog would do if he persevered, sat down in a chair. Dash on this pulled the bell-rope,

and a servant, on coming in, was greatly astonished when the man told him that the dog had rung the bell. Thus the mystery was explained. There could now be no doubt that Dash, immediately on observing the servants close their eyes, had hastened to the parlour and rung the bell.

### MR. FOX AND THE PICK-POCKET.

Among the spectators who witnessed the first balloon ascent in England was the celebrated Mr. Fox. His brother, General Fox, was also there, and the field, from which the ascent took place, was filled with an immense crowd. Fox, happening to put his hand down to his watch, found another hand upon it, which he immediately seized. "My friend," said he to the owner of the strange hand, "you have chosen an occupation which will be your ruin at last." "Oh, Mr. Fox," was the reply, "forgive me, and let me go! I have been driven to this course by necessity alone; my wife and children are starving at home." Fox, always tender-hearted, slipped a guinea into the hand and then released it. On the conclusion of the show, Fox was proceeding to look what o'clock it was. "Good heavens!" cried he, "my watch is gone!" "Yes," answered General Fox, "I know it is; I saw your friend take it." "Saw him take it! and you made no attempt to stop him?" "Really," replied the General, "you and he seemed to be on such good terms with each other that I did not choose to interfere."

### BRAVE RESCUE OF A SHIP'S CREW.

In November, 1878, a French barque, laden with petroleum, caught fire and was soon in a blaze. The burning petroleum ran through the scuppers into the sea, and the French barque was soon surrounded by a broad belt of fire. Some of the crew jumped overboard, though others remained, fearing to face the double danger of fire and water.

The crew of the *Annabella Clark*, which was lying close by,

heard the explosion, and saw the fire leaping high into the air. Notwithstanding the danger, two of the men determined to save the burning Frenchmen. Captain Sharp jumped into a boat, and John M'Intosh, the ship's carpenter, followed him. They rowed stroke for stroke through the raging sea of fire that surrounded them towards the barque. Their clothes were burnt; their hands and arms were burnt. But, undismayed by fear or pain, they struggled on, reached the ship, and brought back the French crew in safety to the *Annabella Clark*. It is sad to have to relate that John M'Intosh, the ship's carpenter, was so terribly burnt in his hands and arms that he was altogether unfitted for further work at his trade.

### A DOG MESSENGER.

Not very long ago, a dog entered a house in Wisconsin with a piece of paper tied to his tail. As tin kettles and other utensils have occasionally been attached to the same member by cruel persons, no notice was taken of the dog except to laugh at his odd look. But he went from one member of the family to another, tail first, in such a persistent way that at last the paper was examined, and upon it these words were found to be written:—"My legs are broken, please help me." The dog's legs, however, were seen to be safe and sound. But the handwriting was then recognized as that of a woman who lived half a mile off. Her house was at once visited, and she was discovered to be lying helpless with both legs broken from a fall. Not being able to move or otherwise attract attention, the poor woman might have died had not the dog happened, fortunately, to stroll into the house. Crawling to the table she contrived to send the message as already described, and the dog, either accidentally or with the intelligence of his kind, made for the nearest house, and was thus the means of saving her life.

**A SCHOOL-DAY ANECDOTE.**

"There was a boy in the class," says Sir Walter Scott in the history of his own life, "who stood always at the top, nor could I with all my efforts supplant him. Day after day, he kept his place, do what I would ; till at length I observed that, when a question was asked him, he always fumbled with his fingers at a particular button in the lower part of his waistcoat. To remove it, therefore, became expedient in my eyes ; and in an evil moment I cut it off with a knife. Great was my anxiety to know the success of my measure ; and it succeeded too well. When the boy was again questioned, his fingers sought for the button, but it was not to be found. In his distress he looked down for it ; it was gone ! He stood confounded, and I took possession of his place ; nor did he ever recover it, or ever, I believe, suspect who was the author of his wrong. Often, in afterlife, has my conscience smote me as I passed by him ; and often have I resolved to make him some reparation ; but I never did ; it ended in good resolutions alone."

**FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.**

In the winter of the year 1776, a Polish Count was travelling in the neighbourhood of the Carpathian mountains, which then were infested with wolves. The cold was intense, and these animals, being more bold than usual, came down in hordes and pursued the carriage. The count's servant, seeing the wolves gaining rapidly on the carriage, begged his master to allow him to leave them his horse to devour in order to gain time. The count consented ; the servant mounted behind the carriage and let the horse go, which was at once seized and torn to pieces. Meantime the travellers proceeded as fast as possible in hopes of reaching a town, from which they were not very far distant. But the horses were tired, and the wolves, becoming more savage by the blood they had tasted, were in full chase for the carriage. In this extreme necessity, the servant cried out, "There is only one means of deliverance : I must go and meet the wolves ; promise to provide as a father for my wife and

children. I must perish ; but while they fall upon me, you will escape." Thereupon the servant got down, went to meet the wolves, and was devoured. The count reached the gates of the town and was saved. The servant's family was amply provided for, but what return could ever be made for such noble self-sacrifice ?

### **CAMILLUS AND THE TRAITOR.**

The following incident is said to have occurred in the course of a long war which was carried on by the Romans about the beginning of the fourth century before our era. The name of the Roman general was Camillus, and he was engaged in attacking a fortified town of the enemy. The place was so difficult of access, and so well walled and defended, that he despaired of taking it by assault. His only plan, therefore, was to attempt to starve it into surrender, and to prevent the entrance of provisions. He began the long and laborious task of surrounding the entire town with a rampart and a moat. While thus occupied, a traitor came to him from the enemy. He was a school-master, and all the children of the nobility in the besieged town had been entrusted to his care. These he proposed for a suitable reward to betray into the hands of Camillus, assuring him that, were this done, the besieged would come to almost any terms proposed to save the lives of their offspring. But the high-minded Camillus was incapable of being a party to any such baseness. He instantly ordered the schoolmaster to be seized and bound, and placing thongs in the hands of the scholars, bade them whip him back into the town. The inhabitants were so struck with the Roman general's refusal to take advantage of treason that they sent an embassy to Rome soliciting peace, which they easily obtained.

### **A WONDERFUL ESCAPE.**

An English lady was some time since travelling with her nurse and her little boy to Geneva, where she was to meet her husband. A short time before they reached that place, they had

to pass through a tunnel. The child was playing on the floor of the carriage when the train entered the tunnel ; when it came out the door was open and the child gone. Nothing could be done till Geneva was reached. Then the distracted mother went to the station-master and begged him to telegraph back to the next station to stop all trains. The station-master looked at his watch and said, "I will telegraph ; but a luggage train ought to have left the station a minute ago, and I am afraid it is too late." A carriage was got ready and sent back with the lady and her husband. When they came to the tunnel, they went along very slowly and cautiously. They did not meet the luggage-train, but in the middle of the tunnel they found the baby sitting unhurt on the rails. When they reached the station to which the telegram had been sent, the station-master met them, and told them that just as the luggage-train was going to start, something was found to be wrong ; a few minutes delay occurred, and in that time the telegram arrived. The seemingly accidental delay had in all probability saved the child's life.

### **THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG SAVING THE MASTIFF.**

Two dogs—one a Newfoundland and the other a mastiff—were seen by several people engaged in a fierce and prolonged battle on a pier. They were both powerful dogs, and, though good-natured when alone, were much in the habit of fighting when they met. At length they both fell into the sea, and as the pier was long and steep, they had no means of escape but by swimming a considerable distance. The cold bath brought the combat to an end, and each began to make for the land as best he could. The Newfoundland dog speedily gained the shore, on which he stood shaking himself, at the same time watching the movements of his late enemy, who, being no swimmer, was struggling and just about to sink. On seeing this, he dashed in, took the mastiff gently by the collar, kept his head above water, and brought him safely to land. After

this they became inseparable friends, and never fought again ; and when the Newfoundland dog met his death by a stone wagon running over him, the mastiff languished, and evidently mourned for him for a long time.

### **BRAVE RESCUE BY A SURGEON.**

An instance of courage and devotion is told of a French army surgeon who served under Napoleon in Egypt. One engagement with the English had just occurred, and among the wounded was General Silly, whose knee was ground by a bullet. The surgeon, perceiving that fatal results might issue unless the limb was amputated at once, proposed amputation. The general consented to the operation, which was performed under the enemy's fire in the space of three minutes. But the English cavalry were approaching. What was then to become of the French surgeon and his patient ? He lifted the wounded officer on to his shoulders, and carried him rapidly away towards the French army, which was in full retreat. Fortunately for him that part of the country was intersected with ditches, planted with bushes, which he was able to pass, while the cavalry were obliged to go by a more circuitous route. Thus he succeeded in reaching the rear-guard of the French army and avoiding the pursuing horsemen. After meeting with many more dangers and difficulties, he at length arrived at Alexandria with the officer whose life he had so gallantly rescued.

### **HOW RICHARD I. FELL INTO PRISON.**

Richard the Lion-hearted, seeking to escape from the Duke of Austria, travelled under the name of Hugh the Merchant. He first betrayed himself to the governor of a town he had to pass through, by presenting him with a splendid jewel. The governor let him pass, but spread the news all through Germany that Hugh the Merchant was none other than Richard Plantagenet. Richard, however, continued his journey without molestation until reaching another town, where the Governor

sent one of his knights to try and find out who the traveller was. The knight instantly recognized the king ; but instead of betraying him, he gave him his horse and entreated Richard to fly and save himself. Accompanied by a boy and one other attendant, the king reached an inn on the outskirts of Vienna, which he entered ; and hoping to prevent any suspicion concerning his rank, busied himself in turning the spit. He forgot, however, to conceal a beautiful ring which he wore on his finger, and a soldier among the company, having seen Richard at Acre, recognized him, and at once gave alarm to the Duke of Austria, who had the king seized and thrown into prison.

### **A MISCHIEVOUS MONKEY.**

Among the passengers in a sailing ship returning from Jamaica to Whitehaven, was a lady and her infant child. There was also on board a large monkey, which the sailors kept as a pet. One day the lady had laid down her infant for a moment on a sofa and was watching a distant sail. An exclamation from one of the sailors made her turn round, and what was her dismay to behold the monkey carrying her child apparently to the top of the mast. The sight was too much for her ; she fell fainting on the deck, whence she was conveyed to the cabin. The captain knew not what to do ; he expected every moment that the animal would become tired of his toy, and drop it into the ocean or dash it on the deck. The sailors could climb as well as the monkey, but the latter watched their motions narrowly, and, as it ascended higher up the mast as soon as they put a foot on the shrouds, the captain became afraid that it would drop the child, and endeavour to escape by leaping from one mast to another. Many plans were tried to allure the culprit from his berth above, but in vain. As a last resource, the captain ordered every man to conceal himself below. This plan happily succeeded ; for the monkey, on perceiving that the coast was clear, cautiously descended from his lofty perch, and replaced the infant on the sofa, cold and frightened, but in every other respect unharmed.

### A CUP OF COLD WATER.

A young English woman was sent to France to be educated in a Protestant school in Paris. A few evenings before the fatal massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, she and some of her young companions were taking a walk in a part of the town where there were sentinels placed ; and it is a rule of military service that when a soldier is on guard, he must not leave his post until another soldier comes to take his place. One of the sentinels, as the young ladies passed him, besought them to have the charity to bring him a little water, adding that he was very ill and that it would be as much as his life was worth to fetch it himself. The ladies walked on, much offended at the man for presuming to speak to them, all but the young English woman, who, out of compassion, left her party, procured some water, and brought it to the soldier. He begged her to tell him her name and place of abode, and this she did. When she rejoined her companions, some blamed and others laughed at her for her attention to a common soldier. They had soon reason, however, to lament that they had not been equally compassionate, for the grateful soldier contrived, on the night of the massacre, to save this young English woman, while all the other inhabitants of the house she dwelt in were killed.

### "NOT SO WONDERFUL AFTER ALL."

One day an animated conversation took place among a party of Americans, who were staying at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, over a fish dinner. Several of them related marvellous stories about finding pearls and other valuables in the interior of fish. One old gentleman, who had quietly listened, at length remarked, "I have heard all your stories ; now I will tell you one. When I was a young man I was suddenly called away from New York to Birmingham about two months before my marriage had been fixed to take place. I was detained somewhat longer in England than I expected ; but, just before

I sailed for home, I purchased a handsome and very valuable diamond ring for my intended wife. When coming up New York Bay, I was glancing over the morning papers, which had been brought aboard by the pilot, when what should I see but an account of her marriage with another man. This so enraged me that, in my passion, I threw the ring overboard. A few days after, I was dining at an hotel in New York. Fish was served up, and, in eating it, I bit on something hard ; and what do you suppose it was ?" "The diamond ring !" exclaimed several. "No," said our friend, preserving the same gravity, "*it was a fish-bone !*"

### A BRAVE GIRL.

At the time of the incident related below, Kate Shelley was fifteen years old. She lived near a town called Des Moines in the United States of America, at a point where a railroad crosses a gorge at a great height. One night during a furious storm, the bridge was carried away. The first the Shelleys knew of it was when they saw the head-light of a locomotive flash down into the chasm. Kate climbed to the remains of the bridge with great difficulty, being guided by an old lantern. The engineer's voice answered her calls, but she could do nothing for him, and he was drowned. An express train was almost due, and Kate immediately started for the nearest station, a mile distant, to give warning. A long, high bridge over the Des Moines River had to be crossed on the ties, a perilous thing in stormy darkness. Kate's light was blown out, and the wind was so violent that she could not stand, but had to crawl across the bridge, from timber to timber, on her hands and knees, with a broad river raging in the black depths below her. Still she pressed bravely on, and reached the station just in time to give the warning, though she fainted immediately after. Her self-devotion thus saved the lives of a whole train full of passengers.

**MATERNAL CARE OF BIRDS.**

An instance of the intelligent care of a parent bird for its young was observed and recorded not very long ago. A pair of birds, known as fly-catchers, had built their nest in the corner of a bedroom window. The nest was sheltered from the rays of the sun, the greater part of the day, by a projection of a part of the house ; but about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, the sun's warm beams shone right against the corner where the nest was placed, to the great distress of the poor little nestlings. One warm afternoon the young ones were seen panting with open bills from the great heat. To the surprise and pleasure of the observer, one of the old birds, the female probably, took up her position on the sunward side of the nest, stretching over her young with wings a little extended, to shield and protect them, though, from her open mouth, she appeared to suffer as much, or more, than they did. Here, however, she continued to remain till the sun got lower, and the same protection of the young was observed to be repeated whenever the heat of the sun rendered it necessary.

**PROVING A DEBT.**

The following case is said to have occurred in an Eastern court. A man had lent 500 ounces of silver to a Jew before two witnesses. But both witnesses being dead, he foresaw great difficulty in proving his case. A person of distinction, however, having ascertained that the silver was lent on a large stone in a well-known locality promised to be his advocate. He addressed the judge : " My lord, it is true that both the witnesses are dead, but what your lordship is asked to do is to direct that the large stone on which the silver was weighed shall be brought before the court. The Jew and I will stay until it arrives, and I will send for it at my client's expense." The judge consented, and went on with some other cases. On the rising of the court the judge asked if the stone had arrived. The Jew then impatiently interrupted ; " Oh, your lordship will wait long enough for that :

it is six miles off, and it will take fifteen persons to remove it." The advocate then retorted, "Now, my lord, the stone is of truth a witness, and this Jew cannot deny the debt any longer." The Jew was thus convicted by his unguarded admission of his knowledge of the stone and its situation, and was ordered to pay the debt.

### **THE HELMSMAN OF LAKE ERIE.**

A passenger steamer running on Lake Erie, when at a considerable distance from land, caught fire in the after-part. There were more than a hundred persons on board. The only chance of saving their lives was to run the ship ashore, but to do this required skilful steering. The man at the wheel, John Maynard, knew that on his remaining at his post depended the lives of all on board, and he determined not to leave it. The fire spread along till it reached him, and dense volumes of smoke hid him from the view of the passengers and crew, who were crowded in the forward part of the vessel. From time to time the captain shouted to him a word of encouragement, and through the smoke and glare came back the brave sailor's voice, though each time in feebler accents, saying that he still held on. Every moment the heat around him grew more and more intense, too great almost for endurance even such as his. His clothes shrivelled into pieces. He was frightfully burnt, but he never left his post. He stuck to the wheel, and, through his doing so, the ship was at last run ashore. The hundred persons were saved, but the helmsman died. He sacrificed himself in heroically saving the lives of others.

### **THE AFFECTIONATE SEAL.**

A gentleman in the west of Ireland owned a seal, which was so tame and so attached to its master that it would follow him about like a dog. The people in that part of the country are sadly ignorant and superstitious, and fancied that the seal was the cause of misfortunes which befel them. So many were

the complaints that the owner was obliged to consent to its being sent away. Having been put on board a boat, it was taken out some distance to sea and then thrown overboard. Very shortly afterwards, however, it found its way back to its beloved master. Again it was sent out, to a greater distance, and again returned. A third time it was put on board the boat, and the crew, determining that it should trouble them no more, cruelly put out its eyes and threw it into the sea to perish, as they believed. Some time passed, when one stormy night the gentleman heard above the moaning sounds of the gale the plaintive cry of his favourite close to his house. He went to the door, and, opening it, saw before him the body of the affectionate animal quite dead. Though deprived of its sight, it had found its way back to the shore on which its master's house stood, and, exerting all its strength for one last effort, had crawled up to the door to die.

### THE MISER'S DEATH.

In the south of France, there once lived, in the most miserly manner, an individual believed to be possessed of great wealth. He had a vault made in his wine-cellar, so large that he could descend into it himself by means of a ladder. At the entrance was a trap-door, which shut by a spring-lock, and which could not be opened except on the outside. The owner of the house was one day found missing, and every search after him proved to be in vain. His ponds were dragged, and all other means taken to discover him. He was given over for lost, and his property duly disposed of. His house was soon afterwards sold. The purchaser being about to make some alterations in it, the workmen discovered the vault in the cellar, and the key in the lock outside. It was opened, and, on descending, the miser was found lying dead on the ground, with a candlestick near him, but no candle, for that it appeared he had eaten. All round him were heavy bags of gold, and large chests of untold wealth. The wretched man had by some accident been shut in his

vault, and being beyond the hearing of his fellow-creatures, had perished of hunger.

### THE WRECK OF THE "BIRKENHEAD."

While steaming along the African coast with 472 soldiers and 166 women and children on board, this vessel struck on a sunken rock, and it was at once felt that she must go down. It was two o'clock in the morning, and all were asleep below. The drums called the soldiers to arms, and the men mustered as steadily as if on parade. The word was passed to save the *women and children*, and the helpless creatures were brought from below, mostly undressed, and handed silently into the boats. When they had all left the ship's side, the commander of the vessel thoughtlessly called out, "All those that can swim, jump overboard and make for the boats." But an officer of the 91st Highlanders shouted out, "No! if you do that the boats with the women must be swamped;" and the brave men stood motionless. There was no boat remaining, and no hope of safety; but no one flinched from his duty in that trying moment. "There was not a murmur nor a cry amongst them," said a survivor, "until the vessel made her final plunge." Down went the ship, and down went the heroic band, firing a salute as they sank beneath the waves.

### GENEROUS MARCO.

Leopold, Duke of Lorraine, had a bear called Marco, of whose sagacity the following tale is told:—One cold winter a Savoyard boy, ready to perish with cold in a barn, in which he had been put by a good woman, entered Marco's hut, without reflecting on the danger he ran in exposing himself to the mercy of the animal which occupied it. Marco, however, instead of doing any injury to the child, took him between his paws, and warmed him by pressing him to his breast until the next morning, when he suffered him to depart. The Savoyard returned in the evening to the hut, and was received with the same affection.

For several days he had no other retreat, and it added not a little to his joy to perceive that the bear regularly reserved part of his food for him. At length, when one of the servants came to bring the bear his supper, he was astonished to find the child sleeping quietly in such a situation, and the bear determined to resist any interference with his strange charge. The report of the extraordinary circumstance soon reached the ears of Leopold, who, with some of his courtiers, watched near Marco's hut, and fully satisfied himself of the truth of the story. The bear never moved while his guest showed any inclination to sleep, and in the morning caressed him and tried to make him eat what had been brought to him the evening before. The duke was so impressed that he ordered the boy to be provided for.

### JIM DICK.

"When I was a small boy," says Mr. Southey, the poet, "there was a black lad in the town by the name of Jim Dick. I and a number of my playfellows were one evening collected together at our sports, and began teasing the poor black by calling him 'negro,' 'blackamoor,' and other ill names. The poor fellow appeared very grieved at our conduct, and soon left us. We soon afterwards agreed to go a-skating, and on the day agreed on I had the misfortune to break my skates, and I could not go without borrowing Jim's skates. I went to him and asked him for them. 'Oh yes, Master Robert, you may have them and welcome,' was his answer. When I went to return them, I found Jim sitting by the fire in the kitchen, reading the Bible. I told him I had returned his skates, and was very much obliged to him for his kindness. He looked at me as he took his skates, and with tears in his eyes said to me, 'Robert, don't ever call me blackamoor again,' and then left the room. The words pierced my heart, and I burst into tears, and from that time resolved never again to abuse a poor black."

**THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S TRUTHFULNESS.**

Wellington was a severe admirer of truth. On one occasion, when afflicted by deafness, he consulted a doctor who had made diseases of the ear his special study. The treatment, however, was so unskilful that the duke's life was endangered, and was only saved through the application of vigorous remedies by the family physician. When the gentleman, who had treated the duke for deafness, heard of the danger his patient had ran, he hastened to Apsley House to express his grief and mortification. But the duke merely said : "Do not say a word more about it—you did all for the best." The doctor said it would be his ruin when it became known that he had been the cause of so much suffering and danger to his Grace. "But nobody need know anything about it ; keep your own counsel, and, depend upon it, I won't say a word to any one." "Then your Grace will allow me to attend you as usual, which will show the public that you have not withdrawn your confidence from me?" "No," replied the duke, kindly, but firmly ; "I can't do that, for that would be a lie." He would not act a falsehood any more than he would speak one.

**THE PAGE AND THE CHERRIES.**

A page was one day sent by Frederick, King of Prussia, to deliver a basket of fine cherries to the queen, but, unable to resist the temptation, ate them himself. The king, having subsequently ascertained this, determined to pay him out for his offence. He wrote the following note to the officer of the royal guard :—"Give the bearer twenty-five lashes, and take his receipt for it," and then called the page and told him to take the note to the guard-house and wait for an answer. The page, however, fearing all was not right, determined to send the note by another hand, and meeting a Jew banker persuaded him to take it. On arrival at the guard-house, the Jew begged the officer not to give himself any unnecessary trouble. "I do not," replied he ; "these ceremonies are quite necessary, as you

will find." He then ordered the guard to seize the Jew and give him twenty-five lashes, which was immediately done, after which he was actually compelled to give a written receipt for the blows that had been inflicted on his now severely wounded back.

The affair soon reached the ears of the king, who could not help laughing heartily at the adventure, but at the same time was compelled to confer some favours on the hero of it, as the Jew frequently advanced him considerable sums of money in cases of necessity.

### **THE ENGINE DRIVER AND THE BURNING TRAIN.**

Few nobler deeds are on record than that which occurred on the Pennsylvania railway, on the 22nd of October, 1882. Its hero and its martyr was Joseph Sieg, an engine-driver. While the train was travelling at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour, the fireman opened the furnace door to make up the fire. The back draught forced the flames out so far that the locomotive car caught fire, and the driver and stoker were driven over the tender into the nearest passenger carriage. The engine was left uncontrolled, and, with the increase of heat and flame, the speed increased. The fire spread as the train rushed wildly along, and every moment made it clearer that all the carriages with their living freight would be burned to ashes. The passengers—there were no less than 600 of them—were panic-struck. To remain was to be burned alive; to jump off was certain death. The only hope of safety lay in stopping the train, and this Joseph Sieg resolved to do. Plunging into the burning flames with desperate courage, he climbed over the tender and reversed the engine. When the train stopped, he was found in the water tank, whither he had fled, with his clothes burnt off, his face disfigured, and his body frightfully injured. Half conscious he was removed to the hospital, where death in a few days put an end to his sufferings. The passengers, one and all, testified that Joseph Sieg's splendid heroism alone saved their lives.

### **THE BLIND ELEPHANT AND THE DOCTOR.**

An elephant belonging to an Engineer officer in India, had a disease in his eyes, and had for three days been completely blind. His owner asked a physician, with whom he was acquainted, whether he could do anything for the relief of the animal. The physician replied that he was willing to try, on one eye, the effect of nitrate of silver, which was a remedy commonly used for similar diseases in the human eye. The animal was accordingly made to lie down, and, when the nitrate of silver was applied, uttered a terrific roar at the acute pain which it occasioned. But the effect of the application was wonderful, for the eye was in a great degree restored, and the elephant could partially see. The doctor was in consequence ready to operate similarly on the other eye on the following day. When the animal was brought out and heard the doctor's voice, he lay down of himself, placed his head quietly on one side, curled up his trunk, drew in his breath like a human being about to endure a painful operation, gave a sigh of relief when it was over, and then, by motions of his trunk and other gestures, gave evident signs of wishing to express his gratitude. The animal remembered the benefit that he had felt from the application to one eye, and when he was brought to the same place on the following day and heard the operator's voice, he seems to have concluded that a like service was to be done to his other eye.

### **AN UNEXPECTED HELPER.**

One day when the Marquis of Hertford was riding alone along a country road, he met a cart with one horse laden with coals, which from the deepness of the ruts was in danger of being overturned. The carter, not knowing who the stranger was, said to his lordship, "Come, you might tie your horse to a tree and give me a hand." At this request, the marquis instantly dismounted, asking the carter what he should do to help him. "Why, lay hold here and shove hard," was the ready reply,

which, being complied with, they together soon got the cart out of the difficulty. The marquis then asked if there was anything more to do. "Why, no," said the carter, feeling his pocket; "if I had sixpence I would give it thee, but if you'd go down to the Crown, I'll give thee part of a pot of beer." The marquis declined the offer and mounted. The countryman, however, observed, "Why, you ride a very good horse; perhaps we shall see one another again." "That may be," was the reply; "but it is not very likely, and here is a half-crown for you to drink the Marquis of Hertford's health." The gentleman then rode on, leaving the poor fellow mute with astonishment at the event that had occurred.

#### LADY EDGEWORTH'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

The following incident is related of Lady Edgeworth, whose home was in an unfrequented part of Ireland. On an alarm being given, which caused the gentlemen of the family to take down their guns, she went to a dark loft at the top of the house to fetch some powder from a barrel that was kept there in store. She took with her a young maid-servant to carry the candle, which was devoid of any candlestick, as was usually the case in an Irish household of the seventeenth century. After taking the needful amount of powder, Lady Edgeworth locked the door, and was half-way downstairs when she missed the candle, and asking the girl what she had done with it, received the cool answer that "she had left it sticking in the barrel of black salt." Lady Edgeworth bade her stand still, turned round, went back alone to the loft where the tallow candle stood guttering and flaring in the middle of the gunpowder. She resolutely put an untrembling hand beneath it, took it out so steadily that no spark fell, and bore it in safety downstairs, thus by her resolute courage saving an entire household from a frightful peril.

### THE ACTRESS AND THE WIDOW.

During the stay of Mrs. Jordan, a celebrated actress, at Chester, her laundress, a widow with three small children, was, by a merciless creditor, thrown into prison. A small debt of about forty shillings had increased in a short time by law expenses to eight pounds. As soon as Mrs. Jordan had heard of the circumstance, she sent for the attorney, paid him the demand, and remarked with great severity on his extortion and his inhumanity to the widow and the fatherless. The attorney, however, pocketed the affront, and with a low bow made his exit. On the afternoon of the same day the poor woman was liberated. As Mrs. Jordan was taking her usual walk with her servant, the widow, with her children, followed her, and just as she had taken shelter from a shower of rain in a kind of porch, dropped on her knees and, with tears of grateful emotion, invoked blessings on the head of her benefactress. The natural liveliness of Mrs. Jordan's disposition was not easily damped by sorrowful scenes. However, although she strove to hide it, the tear of feeling stole down her cheek, and, stooping to kiss the children, she slipped a pound note into the mother's hand, and in her usual playful manner replied, "There, there ; now it's all over. Go, good woman, God bless you ! Don't say another word !"

### A SALUTARY PILL.

During an unfortunate campaign in which the French army suffered great losses, two peasants of a certain village had to decide by drawing lots which of them should serve as a soldier. One only was wanted to complete the number, and of the two who were to draw, one was the son of a rich farmer, and the other the child of a poor widow. The farmer tried to gain over the superintendent of the ballot, and promised him a handsome present if he could find means to prevent his son from going to the army. In order to accomplish it, he put into the urn two black balls, instead of one black and one white. When the

young men came, he said, "There are a black ball and a white one in the urn ; he who draws the black one must serve." The widow's son, having some suspicion that all was not fair, approached the urn, and drew one of the balls, which he immediately swallowed without looking at it. "Why have you done that?" said the superintendent, "how are we to know whether you have drawn a black or a white ball?" "Very easily," replied he ; "let him draw the other : if I have the black, he must draw the white one." The superintendent could not refuse ; and the farmer's son drew the remaining ball, which was a black one. The widow's son was thus saved, and the other obliged to serve or to find a substitute.

### THE FAITHFUL SLAVE OF ST. DOMINGO.

Towards the end of the last century, the slaves in the island of St. Domingo rose in a body and began to burn the plantations and to massacre their masters with revolting barbarity. On one estate there was a single loyal exception—a genuine African, who had been brought to the island by the slave-trade. The whole of his master's family were massacred, excepting two little boys of five and three years old, whom he contrived to hide, and afterwards to escape with to the coast, where he put them on board ship, and succeeded in conveying them to Carolina. Here happily he was allowed to live in freedom, and by unsparing labour was able to maintain the children; and not only this, but to fulfil his earnest purpose of educating them consistently with their parents' station in life. He placed them at a good boarding school, and, while living the hardest life himself, gave them each a dollar a week for pocket-money.

The elder of the two went to sea, rose to be a captain, and married a Spanish heiress in Cuba. On settling upon her estate, he at once sent for his good old guardian, built him a house, and made him an overseer, giving him, in memory of old times, a dollar every week for pocket money, and treating him with great affection.

### **A KNOTTED SHAWL AND A LIFEBOAT.**

In attempting the rescue of the crew of a Prussian barque, which had struck on a ridge of rocks in the Bristol Channel, the lifeboat with its crew of thirteen men was capsized. Before the boat could be righted, she was dashed by an immense wave against the wreck, and her side staved in. Some of the men were stunned by the blow, and some were carried away by the sea and drowned. The coxswain struck out for the shore, which he managed to reach more dead than alive. As he lay exhausted on the beach, he espied two drowning men, about three yards out, struggling for life. Three soldiers stood helplessly by, making a futile attempt to throw a clothes-line, but not nearly within their reach. But what the soldiers were too timid to attempt in such a sea, two women tried. They were the daughters of the lighthouse-keeper. "Come back, come back," shouted their father, "you'll lose your lives!" "I'll lose my life before I'll see men drown," was the reply of one of them. They tore off their shawls, knotted them together, and, upholding each other, waded out into the boiling surge. Keeping hand in hand, and with hearts made fearless to all peril but that of the two exhausted men drowning for want of a helping hand, they managed to hold each other up till they could throw the end of their shawls within reach of the men, and then by means of these they dragged them both to land.

### **A MURDERER CONVICTED BY A DOG.**

In the reign of Charles VI. of France, a gentleman, accompanied by his dog, was passing through a lonely wood, when he was set upon by his mortal enemy, and was killed and buried on the spot. The faithful dog, which had vainly defended his master, lay day and night on the forest grave, where the murderer hoped his crime was hidden, only leaving it to go to the house of his master's chief friend in Paris for his daily meal. At length he was followed, the ground was searched, the murder discovered, and the corpse freshly buried. Afterwards, the

dog's furious attacks on the hitherto unknown murderer aroused suspicion, and it was ordered that the matter should be put to the proof by the issue of a singular combat between the man and the dog. The man was armed with a club and a shield, the dog was given a tub into which he might retire for defence. The dog so cleverly avoided the blows aimed at him, that the contest was prolonged for several hours. At length the murderer was so worn out with his incessant exertions in attack and self-defence that he fainted away, and on coming to himself owned the deed. He received the full penalty for his crime, and thus the noble dog became his master's avenger.

#### **AN ACT OF KINDNESS ITS OWN REWARD.**

Two travellers were endeavouring, at an advanced season of the year, to make their way across one of the Alpine passes. They were overtaken by a snowstorm, accompanied by a piercing wind. The snow before and around them grew thicker and thicker; the wind chilled them to the very bone. Every step became more difficult in the face of the blinding snow, and more dangerous over the obscured pathway. Still they trudged on bravely and resolutely; their only chance of life was in reaching a place of shelter which lay before them. But at length further resistance seemed impossible; numbness was fast creeping over them, and with it the drowsiness which ends in the sleep of death. They were about to resign themselves to their fate, when just before them, in the path, they espied a heap of snow. From this heap projected a human foot. Some poor exhausted traveller had, like themselves, been unable to battle further with the elements, and had lain down to die. Roused to new and unsuspected energy by this discovery, they removed the snow that covered the fallen wayfarer, and found he still breathed. They took up some snow, and, summoning all the strength they had, rubbed and chafed him with it. To their joy, he at length opened his eyes; a little more care, and he was able to stand and walk. But, unknown to themselves,

in chafing him they had restored the failing circulation in their veins, and recovered their lost warmth. Their numbness was gone, and they were able to proceed and reach a place of safety. Their act of kindness had been its own reward; in saving the lost traveller's life, they had saved their own.

### **WONDERFUL ESCAPE OF A DRUNKEN SAILOR.**

A sailor named Campbell, while in a state of intoxication, jumped into the water from on board his vessel, which was moored in the river Congo, in Africa. When he had swam some distance, an alligator was perceived by some persons on board making towards him. Two shots were fired at the creature, but without effect. The report of the piece, and the noise on board, made Campbell acquainted with his danger. He saw the monster advancing towards him, and with all his strength struck out for the shore. Just as he approached some canes and shrubs that covered the bank, while still pursued by the alligator, a ferocious tiger sprang towards him, at the instant the jaws of his first enemy were expanded to devour him. At this awful moment Campbell was preserved. The eager tiger by overleaping him, encountered the grip of the alligator. A conflict ensued between them; the water was coloured with the blood of the tiger, who was unable to tear the scaly covering of his enemy, and after a furious struggle was overcome. Both animals then sank to the bottom and were seen no more. Campbell was immediately recovered and taken on board. His danger had sobered him, and the recollection of his marvellous escape from death was the means of ever afterwards keeping him from the vice of intemperance.

### **THE BITER BITTEN.**

A French emigrant, who in 1789 had sought refuge in Westphalia, thought he would do well at the approach of winter to lay in a good store of wood. Seeing a cartload passing, he called the carter to ask the price. The man, perceiving that his questioner was a foreigner, determined to cheat him, and

told him he would let him have the wood for three pounds, which he affirmed was much cheaper than it could be bought anywhere else. The Frenchman, thinking he had a good bargain, paid him the money, and the carter went to boast at an alehouse close by how he had cheated the foreigner. The landlord of the alehouse was an honest man, and told the carter he had done very wrong in deceiving a stranger ; but he replied, "What is that to you? The wood was my own, and I had the right to set my price on it." The landlord said no more, but when the carter asked him how much he had to pay, he replied, "Three pounds." "What! three pounds for a little bread and cheese and a bottle of beer?" "Yes, that is the price; the bread and cheese belonged to me, and I have the right to set my price on it. If you are not satisfied, I will go with you before a magistrate."

They went, and, the whole story being told, judgment was quickly given in favour of the landlord. The carter was obliged to pay three pounds, out of which the landlord returned him the real value of the wood, and then carried the rest to the Frenchman.

### A TIGER ADVENTURE.

A singular instance of intrepidity on the part of a Lieutenant Davis was reported some years since in an Indian paper. A tiger had taken refuge in the recess of an immense rock, and the dogs could not dislodge him. Lieutenant Davis attempted to enter the den, but was obliged to return, finding the passage extremely narrow and dark. He however attempted it a second time with a pick-axe in his hand, with which he removed some obstructions that were in the way ; and having proceeded a few yards he heard the growling of the animal in question. He then returned, and, having procured a light and a pistol, re-entered the narrow passage. By the aid of the light he discovered the animal, and fired, but without success, owing to the awkward situation in which he was placed, with his left hand only at liberty. He went back with a musket and bayonet and

wounded him in the loins, but was obliged to retreat as quickly as the narrow passage would allow, the tiger having forced the musket back towards the mouth of the den. He then procured a rifle, with which he again forced his way into the place, and taking a deliberate aim at the animal's head, fired and put an end to his existence. A rope was procured, and Lieutenant Davis having cleared a way with a pick-axe, and fastened one end of the rope round the tiger's neck, the animal was dragged out to the no small satisfaction of the anxious spectators.

### **SYMPATHY OF BIRDS.**

A naturalist, while walking along the sea-coast, shot at and wounded a sea-bird, which fell into the sea. As he was waiting at the water's edge expecting it to be drifted in by the wind, two of its companions took hold of their disabled comrade, one at each wing, lifted him out of the water, and bore him out seawards. They were followed by two other birds. After being carried about six or seven yards, he was let gently down, when he was taken up by the two followers. In this way they took it in turns to carry him, until they had conveyed him to a rock at a considerable distance, where they placed him in safety. The naturalist made towards the rock, wishing to secure the prize, which had been thus snatched from his grasp. He was observed, however, by the birds, and a whole swarm was soon on the spot. On his near approach to the rock, he once more beheld two of them take hold of the wounded bird as they had done before, and bear him in triumph far out to sea. This he could no doubt have prevented, but his feelings would not permit him. He willingly allowed the birds to perform, unharmed, an act of mercy, and to exhibit an instance of affection, which man himself need not have been ashamed to imitate.

### **THE RED INDIAN AND THE DESERTED STORE.**

One day in early spring an Indian came, with his parcel of furs, to buy provisions and ammunition at a little trading-

station on the Peace River, in British North America. He found the store shut up, and no one in the house ; for the place was only kept open during the summer months, and the man in charge had not yet come down from St. John's, higher up the river. Inside that wooden house lay everything that the Indian most needed—powder and shot, tea, tobacco, and cotton shirts, and through a hole in the window he could see all these things. He was tired and hungry and his store of food was exhausted. He could easily have broken in, and taken all he wanted, but a feeling within him kept him from doing this. He waited for two days outside the house, and at last made up his mind to go on to St. John's, a two days' journey. He set off, but his courage failed him, and he turned back. On the fourth day, as no one came to buy his furs, he thought of a plan. He entered the store ; took from the powder three skins' worth, and from the shot and tobacco three skins' worth, and put into each place the proper number of marten skins as payment. The remaining skins he hung up on a nail and left there, trusting to receive goods for them at a future time, and then he went away: Ignorant and sorely tempted as he was, he would not do a dishonest act, though it would never have been known to be his.

### THE FORCE OF KINDNESS.

A rich merchant lived in a handsome house in the north of England. He had just built it for himself, and laid out the gardens and hothouses at very great cost, and they were filled with choice flowers and fruit. Some thieves, however, entered the grounds and carried away much of the fruit, and damaged the valuable trees and plants in removing their plunder. It was thought a large reward would be offered for their capture, but instead, the owner caused a placard to be issued, stating that the garden had been robbed of a large quantity of fruit, and that as it was possible the act might have been prompted by poverty and want, he gave notice that, if it were so, and the offenders would make known their circumstances, they should not only

be freely forgiven, but they also should be relieved. The effect that followed the notice was wonderful. The grounds were unusually open and exposed ; but never again was another theft committed there. The whole of the villagers, rough as they were, could only look upon their rich neighbour with veneration and awe ; and from feeling that a strange rich man deserved nothing, and could not become one of them, they came to love and respect him. He won them over by the power of kindness.

### **A MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION.**

Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, was very fond of disguising himself as a private and mixing in the society of his soldiers. On one occasion he happened to meet with a soldier, who was tipsy, and asked him how he managed to get enough money to buy drink. The soldier confidentially explained that he had pawned some of his accoutrements, and among them the blade of his sword. The next day the troops of the guard were unexpectedly called out to be reviewed, and the king discovered his comrade of the day before. The inspection finished, Frederick called out the soldier and the one next to him, and, with an angry voice, said to his last night's companion, "Draw your sword, and cut off the head of that scoundrel." The soldier begged mercy for his comrade, but Frederick was inflexible. Afraid to disobey, he thus addressed the king : "Since your majesty wills it, I must obey, but I pray Heaven that my blade may fall harmless on my comrade's neck." Then drawing his sword, he suddenly exclaimed, "Oh, miracle ! Providence has changed the blade of my sword into wood !" The soldier, as may easily be guessed, unable to redeem his blade, had fixed a blade of wood to the hilt. Frederick was so pleased with his presence of mind that he forgave him, but warned him at the same time to be more careful for the future, as another "miracle would not perhaps save him.

**SMALL BUT BRAVE.**

Pepin, surnamed "the Short," on account of his small stature, was, nevertheless, as brave and strong as the biggest man of his time. One of the greatest pleasures among the Franks of that age was to witness a combat between two animals. The sight was always a horrible one, as the most savage of beasts were chosen for the fight. Pepin was present one day at an unusually grand combat of this kind; the animals fighting against each other were a lion and a bull, both splendid specimens of their kind. The struggle between these two creatures was a very exciting and lengthy one. At last, however, the lion managed to seize the bull by the throat, and was on the point of strangling him, when Pepin, who could no longer bear to look upon the fruitless efforts of the poor, half-throttled bull, jumped straight down into the arena, drew his sword, and with a single stroke severed the lion's head from his body. Such an extraordinary amount of courage and strength, shown by such an exceedingly small man, struck every one dumb with astonishment. Pepin then turned to the assembled Franks, saying: "Am I not courageous enough to become your king?" As may be imagined, no one contradicted him. Courage, in those days, was thought more of than anything else.

**THEY MET AGAIN.**

Two travellers had arrived late at night at the central station of a large American town, and, though no trains were coming or going, waited on. One was a man whom the guard had helped into the waiting-room, and who was evidently weak and dying. The other passenger was a tramp, an outcast from society, who had worked his own ruin. This man kept watching the occupant of the waiting-room, who at length fell asleep on the cushions. He noted that the sleeper had a watch-chain in his pocket and a travelling-bag under his head, and he crept near to rob the dying man. He took the satchel and the watch unperceived, and opened the latter to

ascertain its value. As he did so, his eye fell on a name ; he started violently, stared wildly at the face of the sleeper, and then at the watch ; then he muttered something, and instantly the watch was back in the pocket of the sick man, and the satchel placed under his head. What had he seen ? The face of the captain in the Southern army, who, when he himself lay dying of thirst, and expecting to receive a bayonet thrust, had given him a draught of spring water, and setting him on his own horse, turned him to the north, and said : "When you meet a vanquished foe, spare him, as I have spared you." And he had raised his blue cap in the air and sworn to remember. Now they had met again !

#### **THE FOUR-LEGGED THIEF-TAKER.**

A Polish count had a very fine poodle dog, and liked him so much that he never went out without him. One evening the count went to amuse himself for an hour or two at a public ball, but had to leave his dog outside under the care of one of the attendants. He had not been long in the saloon before he perceived that his watch had been stolen. He complained to the police officers who were present, and they assured him they would do their best to find it. "I have a very sure method of finding it," said the count, "if you will admit my dog and lock the doors ; I promise you he will not harm anybody." The officers consented and the dog was admitted. After a few mutual caresses the count walked around the room with him ; then stopping in the middle and tapping with his hand upon his watch-pocket, he said, "Go and find it ;" pointing at the same time around the saloon. The poodle began immediately to examine every one, smelling their clothes, and at last stopped short before a very well-dressed man, and began barking. The count immediately made himself known to the company, stated the loss he had sustained, and insisted on the man being searched. The company seconded the count, the search took place, and the watch was found, to the great admiration of all but the culprit, who was immediately turned out of the room.

**THE CORPORAL AND THE PRIVATE.**

In the allied army, which in 1695 besieged Namur, under King William III., of England, were a corporal named Unnion and a private named Valentine. These men quarrelled, and became bitter enemies. Unnion, being the officer of Valentine, took every opportunity to injure his subordinate, and to profess the spite and revenge which moved him to it. The private bore it without resistance; but frequently said he would die to be revenged of that tyrant. They had spent whole months in this manner, the one injuring, the other complaining, when, in the height of their enmity towards one another, they were commanded to attack a fort. The attack was repulsed, and the corporal received a shot in the thigh, and fell. The enemy pressed on, and Unnion, expecting to be trampled to death, called out to the private: "Oh, Valentine! can you leave me here?" Valentine immediately returned, and, in the face of a terrible fire from the enemy, took the corporal on his back, and carried him safely for a long distance through the thickest of the danger. Just, however, as he seemed to have reached a place of safety, a stray shot from a cannon took off his head, and his body fell under his persecutor, whom he was carrying off. Unnion immediately forgot his wound, rose up, and threw himself on the bleeding corpse, crying, "Oh, Valentine! is it for me who treated you so barbarously that you have died? I will not live after you!" He could with difficulty be torn from the body and carried to a tent where his wounds were dressed, but the next day, still lamenting his cruelties to Valentine, he died in the pangs of remorse.

**THE LION KILLER.**

A Sicilian had earned a great reputation for the bravery he had once displayed in killing a lion with a wooden club. His fame reached the ears of the governor of Tunis, who promised him a thousand ducats if he would knock down his large

Atlas lion. The Sicilian accepted the offer without hesitation, and on the morning appointed entered the lion's pit. A death-like silence reigned over the crowd of spectators. Walking rapidly to a corner, the lion-killer stood leaning on his club, and awaited the onset of the lion. He had not long to wait. After a few backward steps, the lion suddenly advanced in a sidelong direction to make a charge upon his enemy. The Sicilian did not move, but followed closely the motions of the lion. At last the beast gave a spring, uttering a terrific growl. Instantly the man stepped aside, and the lion had barely touched the ground when the club came down upon his head with a dull, shocking sound. The king of the desert rolled heavily under the stroke and fell headlong, stunned and senseless, but not dead. The spectators were overcome with admiration at the exhibition of so much calmness and strength. The governor also arose and promised the Sicilian a thousand ducats more if he spared the lion, which was instantly agreed to, and the lion-killer, bowing politely, withdrew.

### THE VENTRILOQUIST AND THE ENGINEER.

Ventriloquy is the art of speaking from the throat, without any apparent motion of the lips, and of imitating sounds and voices and making them appear to issue from other places than the speaker's mouth. A man who possessed this art was a passenger on board a steamer, and thought he would amuse himself at the expense of the engineer. Standing as near the engine as he could, he imitated the sound of the creaking which occurs when there is some defect in the working or the oiling of machinery. The engineer came, oil-can in hand, and carefully examined and oiled the part whence the sound seemed to proceed. The noise then ceased, but the engineer had scarcely returned to his place when it broke out again in another part of the machinery. The engineer began to get puzzled, but treated the supposed defect in the same way as the previous one, and with the same result. Again and again the same

creaking occurred, to the increasing alarm of the now fairly distracted engineer. At last a gentleman, who had been watching the whole procedure, and suspected the origin of the mysterious noises, informed the engineer. The latter immediately took his oil-can, and, coming on deck, approached the ventriloquist, who, by this time tired of his amusement, had withdrawn to another part of the ship. Suddenly thrusting the spout of his oil-can inside the ventriloquist's collar, the indignant engineer poured the oil freely down his back, exclaiming, to the great amusement of the by-standers, "There, sir ; that will stop the creaking."

### A ROBBER SAVED.

In 1662, a year of great famine in Paris, a gentleman, accompanied by only a little footboy, was accosted one evening by a man who presented a pistol and asked him for his money. The gentleman had only three pounds on him, which he considered not worth a scuffle, and gave them. The man took the money, and walked off with an air of dejection and terror. He was no sooner gone than the gentleman ordered the boy to follow him. The lad obeyed, and saw him buy a loaf of bread, and with it creep up to the fourth storey of a house in a miserable alley. There he threw the loaf on the floor, and burst into tears, saying, "Take and eat your fill ; there's the dearest loaf I ever bought. I have robbed a gentleman to satisfy your clamours." His lamentations were answered by those of his whole family, and his wife, having at length calmed the agony of his mind, took up the loaf, and, cutting it, gave it to four poor starving children. The boy, who had witnessed this scene through a crevice, returned and reported all to his master. The next day the humane gentleman made inquiries respecting the man who had robbed him, and finding that he had hitherto borne an excellent character as a shoemaker, ascended to the garret. The poor man himself opened the door, and, recognising his visitor, fell on his knees and begged for mercy. The gentle-

man assured him that he had heard his story, and would forgive him, and, after a warning, gave him some money to buy leather to earn an honest livelihood. The man knew not how to express his gratitude, and the gentleman felt convinced, as he left the joy-stricken group, that he had saved one, perhaps all, from crime and a felon's doom.

### THE CAB-DRIVER'S TEMPTATION.

A Member of Parliament hired a cab late one night to take him home from the House of Commons. Arrived at his house, he took some loose money out of his pocket to pay his fare, and in doing so dropped a coin. The cab-driver stooped down, searched about in the darkness, picked up a coin, and handed the gentleman a shilling. The fare was then paid, and the cab drove off. Early the next morning, the member was surprised by being told that the cabman, who had driven him home the night before, was at the door, and begged the favour of an interview. He, however, bade his servant tell the man he would see him, dressed, and went down. "I have come, sir," said the cab-driver, with an abashed air, "to tell you something I've had on my conscience all night, and which has kept me from sleeping a wink." He then confessed that the coin dropped the evening before was not a shilling but a sovereign, and that, seeing it on the ground, the temptation had been too great for him, and that he had slipped it into his pocket and substituted the shilling which he had handed back. He had now brought the sovereign, and begged that he might be forgiven for his deeply repented theft. Struck by the evident sincerity of the man, and the triumph of his better feelings, the gentleman offered him five shillings; but this he steadfastly refused, although he was in great poverty, and had a wife and several children dependent on him.

### THE FIRE AT STRASBURG.

In 1820 a fire broke out in the barracks at Strasburg, and nine soldiers were lying sick and helpless above a room con-

taining a barrel of gunpowder and a thousand cartridges. Every one who could made haste to escape, but a brave officer of the name of Martinel persuaded a few men to return into the barracks with him, and hurried up the stairs through smoke and flame that turned back his companions. He came alone to the door of a room close to that which contained the powder, but found it locked. Catching up a bench, he beat the door in, and was met by such a burst of fire as almost drove him away ; but just as he was about to descend, he thought that, when the flames reached the powder, the nine sick men must infallibly be blown up. Nerving himself for a fresh effort, he dashed forward, with eyes shut, through the midst of the flames, and with face, hands, hair, and clothes singed and burnt, he made his way to the magazine in time to tear away the mass of paper in which the cartridges were packed, which was just about to ignite. He then rushed to the window and shouted for water, which by his help the soldiers outside were enabled to direct to the magazine so as to drench the powder, and thus save the men.

### STORY OF A PARROT AND MONKEY.

A young French lady longed for a parrot that should be a marvel of eloquence, and, as nearly every shop in Paris then sold macaws, cockatoos, and other fancy birds, a parrot that had been taught to speak with great fluency was soon found. But the lady had another passion ; she wished to possess also a monkey. A circus proprietor, who possessed one of these animals remarkable for the droll tricks it performed, was applied to, but could not be persuaded to part with it. Fortunately, however, another wonderful monkey was heard of, who was in a much more lowly sphere of life, being only in a kitchen, where he had learned to pluck fowls with marvellous skill. This animal, it was found, could be purchased, and was accordingly bought and presented to the young lady, who immediately made a great pet of him. The first time she went out, the two animals were locked up in her bedroom. When

she returned, the monkey received her with every expression of delight, but Poll could nowhere be seen. Search was made, and at last the missing bird was found under the bed, shivering and cowering, and without a single feather left, as stark and bare as possible. So true had the monkey been to its early training !

### **AVARICE PUNISHED.**

An avaricious merchant in Turkey, having lost a purse containing two hundred pieces of gold, had it cried by the public crier, offering half its contents to whoever had found and would restore it. A sailor, who had picked it up, went to the crier, and told him he was ready to restore it on the proposed conditions. The owner, having thus learnt where his purse was, thought he would endeavour to recover it without losing anything. He therefore told the sailor that if he desired to receive the reward he must restore also a valuable emerald which was in the purse. The sailor denied that there was anything in the purse but money, and refused to give it up without the recompense. The matter was thereupon referred to a magistrate, who first listened to the sailor's story and then desired the merchant to describe the emerald. The merchant did so, but in such a manner as to convince the magistrate of his dishonesty, who at once gave the following judgment. "The purse you have lost contained two hundred pieces of gold and an emerald ; the sailor has found one containing only two hundred pieces ; therefore it cannot be yours. You," said the magistrate to the sailor, "will keep the purse during forty days without touching its contents, and if, at the expiration of that time, no person shall have established a claim to it, you may justly consider it yours."

### **UNCONSCIOUS GOODNESS.**

It was the custom among the Red Indian tribes to put to death with torture the enemies they had taken in war, and mercy was unknown. Not many years ago, a young chieftain

resolved to rescue a captive woman of a hostile tribe who was to be burnt to death. The poor creature had been actually fastened to the stake ; her funeral pile was about to be kindled, and every eye was mercilessly directed upon her, when the young chieftain, mounted on one horse, and, according to the habit of his country, leading another, was seen approaching the ceremony at full gallop. To the astonishment of every one, he rode up to the pile, unbound the victim from the stake, threw her on the loose horse, and then, vaulting on the back of the other, he carried her off in triumph ! The deed was so sudden, and to the spectators so mysterious, that it was considered the act of the Great Spirit, and no efforts were made to resist it. The captive thus saved, was, after three days' travelling, safely restored to her tribe and to her friends. On the return of her liberator to his own people, no censure was passed upon his extraordinary conduct ; it was allowed to pass unnoticed. This young Indian, though he had not mixed with white people, had learnt to feel pity and to do a kindness without being conscious of any merit in doing it.

### A NOBLE PEASANT.

The river Adige, like other rivers in Northern Italy, has always been liable to a sudden rise and overflow of its banks. One of the principal cities past which it flows is Verona, and, at the time of the story, the bridge at this city was in part built over by houses. During a sudden overflow of the river, the bridge gave way, with the exception of the central arch, on which stood a house. The inhabitants, feeling the foundations every instant giving way, cried piteously from the windows for help. "I will give a hundred pounds," said an Italian count, who stood by, "to any person who will venture to deliver these unfortunate people." A young peasant came forth from the crowd, seized a boat, and at the risk of his life pushed into the stream. By great effort he gained the pier, received the whole family into the boat, made for the shore, and through his skill

and courage succeeded in landing them in safety. "Here is your money, my brave young fellow," said the count. "No," answered the young man, "I do not sell my life; give the money to this poor family who have need of it."

### TRIAL OF COURAGE.

In 1777, during the American war, an officer in Virginia having unintentionally offended another, received a challenge to fight a duel. He refused to expose his life to gratify the caprice of a hot-tempered man, and was, in consequence branded as a coward, and shunned by his brother officers. Knowing he had not merited such disgrace, he resolved to put an end to it; and having furnished himself with a large hand-grenade he went to the mess-room where the officers were assembled. On his entrance, they looked at him with disdain, and several of them said, "We don't associate with cowards." "Gentlemen," replied he, "I am no more a coward than any one of you, though I am not such a fool as to forget my duty to my country and to my family: as to real danger, we shall soon see who fears it the least." On saying this, he lighted the fusee of the grenade, and threw it among them; then, crossing his arms, he prepared to await the explosion. The affrighted officers immediately arose and ran towards the door in the greatest terror and confusion. As soon as the room was cleared, our officer threw himself flat on the floor, and the grenade exploded, shattering the walls and the ceiling, but without doing him any harm. After the explosion, the fugitives returned, expecting to find the officer torn to pieces, but, judge of their shame, on being welcomed with a hearty laugh. From that moment they ceased to shun him or brand him as a coward.

### A MYSTERY CLEARED UP.

Many years ago, some persons were travelling by coach to London. At the approach of night they began to express their fears of being attacked by highwaymen. One gentleman said

he had ten guineas about him and did not know where to hide them. A lady who sat next to him advised him to conceal them in his boots, which he at once did. Soon after, a highwayman came up, and demanded their purses. The lady told him she had no money, but advised him to search the gentleman's boots, where he would find ten guineas. The traveller was obliged to submit, and lost his money ; but, as soon as the robber was gone, he loaded the lady with abuse for disclosing his hiding-place. She admitted that appearances were against her, but added that she would explain all if the travellers would do her the honour of dining with her on the following day. They consented, and after dinner the lady conducted them to the drawing-room, where she pointed to a pocket-book containing bank-notes for several hundred pounds. Then addressing the gentleman, she said : " Sir, if I had not directed the highwayman's attention to your ten guineas, I should have lost my bank-notes. I therefore beg that, to make amends, you will accept one of a hundred pounds." The travellers were highly pleased with the lady's generosity, and complimented her on her presence of mind.

### THE MUTINEER.

Sir James de Saumarez, a commander, and afterwards admiral in the British Navy, had the rare quality of being able to win and retain the devotion of his men. No one ever served under him without feeling the influence of his noble character. When the fleet was at the Nore, a serious mutiny broke out, but nothing of the sort occurred on board Sir James's ship, the *Orion*. Such confidence had he in his men, that he consented to receive on board his ship one of the worst of the mutineers, who was to be tried for his life. Some days after the man was brought on board, the signal was given for the boats of each ship to be armed and manned to witness the execution of four of the mutineers. The commander of the *Orion* sent for the prisoner to his cabin, and, after explaining to him what a crime he had committed, told him that he had

resolved to spare him the anguish he must endure in seeing others suffer for a crime of which he had probably been the guilty cause, and that he might remain on board and not accompany the boat. The effect of this completed what the officer's kindly manner and real sorrow and sympathy had begun. The mutineer was crushed, humbled, conquered. He fell on his knees, and in tears declared he would be loyal to his sovereign, and ever grateful to the officer who had not thought him an outcast past hoping for. He kept his word, and lived and died one of the most faithful sailors Sir James ever had under him.

### THE BRAVE HORSE.

A touching story is told of an Arab horse which belonged to a Dutch farmer in the south of Africa. A ship had been wrecked within sight of land, near the place where the farmer lived. The passengers and crew were seen clinging to the rigging, but there was no boat near, and rescue seemed impossible. At last the Dutch farmer galloped up and rode his brave horse straight into the angry waves, which were breaking on the shore. Soon they reached the ship, and at once returned, towing, by the help of a rope, several of those who were clinging to the wreck. All arrived in safety. After a short rest, the farmer stroked the horse : then looking towards the sea, he said to him, "Once more !" Without the least hesitation the horse plunged anew into the water, anew he combated the angry billows, and again brought to land men and women who, but for his bravery, must have perished in the sea. Night was drawing on, the cries of the survivors were heard louder and louder. The brave-hearted Dutch farmer again caressed his faithful steed, and a third time together they braved the waves. After a hard struggle they reached the wreck. The few survivors seized the rope and were being towed to land. But the horse this time was less able to battle with the waves than before, and seemed to make but little way. A giant wave overtook them, and horse and

man disappeared. Again they rose, but it was for the last time. In a few moments, only a black mane was seen floating on the surf. The last effort had cost both heroes their lives.

### **HONESTY REWARDED.**

Two lads, Harry and Ben, came early to a country town. The first sold melons and other fruits; the second dealt in oysters and fish. The fruit sold quickly and the last melon lay on Harry's stall, when a gentleman came by, and asked the price of it. "The melon is the last I have, sir; and though it looks very fair, there is an unsound spot on the other side," said the lad, turning it over. The gentleman declined to purchase, adding, "Is it very business-like to point out the defects of your fruits to customers?" "It is better than being dishonest, sir," was the modest reply. The gentleman, well pleased with the boy's honesty, promised not to forget his little stand in future, and then turned to Ben's stall. Being assured that some oysters he pointed to were fresh, he bought some and went away. Ben immediately began to laugh at Harry for his candour, and to glory over the deception he had himself practised in selling the stale oysters. But Harry was not to be shamed out of his truthfulness, and persisted that he would be the better off for it in the end. And so it proved; for the next day the gentleman bought quite a supply of fruit from Harry, but he never spent another penny at the stand of Ben. Not only did he continue to buy from Harry, but, finding that the lad's great desire was to become a shop-keeper, he gave him a place in a large shop when winter came on. In this situation Harry rose steadily in his employer's confidence, and at last became a partner in the business.

### **FRITZ AND THE WOLF.**

Fritz was the son of a woodman who lived in the centre of a forest in Poland. One day he was sent on an errand to the nearest village, and, on his way back, when he was about three

hundred yards from his father's door, he saw a fierce wolf standing in his way on the path. He remembered having heard of hunters who had escaped from bears by lying down flat on the ground, and resolved to try the same plan. The wolf approached and began to sniff all over his body. Fritz did not move a limb. By-and-by the wolf reached his neck, and resting one foot on the boy's body, continued to examine him with its muzzle. Fritz could feel the monster's breath on his neck, when a thought struck him. Quick as lightning he seized the paws which were resting on either side of his neck, drew them tightly over his shoulders, sprang up and staggered off with his huge foe hanging on his back. So tightly did he press the wolf's neck to his shoulder, that the monster gasped for breath and tried in vain to use its teeth, though with its hind paws it scratched furiously at Fritz's legs. At length with his strange burden he reached his father's door, against which he dashed the wolf. Roused by the noise the woodman came out, gun in hand, but was afraid to shoot for fear of killing his son. Fritz, however, just managed to reach the barn, where he threw the monster from him, and the dogs flew upon it. A ball from the woodman's gun ended its life.

### LOST AND FOUND.

A poor woman, living in the south of Devonshire, was left a widow with an only son. Whilst this son was yet a little fellow, an officer in the navy took a fancy to him, and persuaded the widow that it would be better to let the lad go to sea. Reluctantly she gave her consent, and looked forward with longing hopes to hear good news of her boy. Year after year she waited, but none came, and at length she concluded he was dead. Finding the home where she had parted with her son become melancholy, she left it, and, after wandering about from place to place, at last settled down at Plymouth. There she sold fruit in the market as a regular dealer, and, being just and civil, never wanted customers. Sailors from on board the

vessels, which put into Plymouth harbour, were often frequenters of the market, and amongst these was a young man who for several days renewed his visits to the poor fruit-woman's stall. At last, fixing his eyes upon her with great earnestness, he said, "I like to buy of you, good woman, because I had once a poor old mother who was much like you ; but she is dead and gone." The woman looked up full in his face, and, with tears in her eyes, exclaimed, "Mercy on me ! if I had a son as old as you alive, he would be just like you. My boy had a mark on his forehead." "Was it like this ?" said the sailor, as he took off his hat and pushed aside his curling hair. The woman could give no answer, and dropped down senseless through the shock of finding the dead alive in her long-lost son. Very tenderly did her child watch over her, but she did not long survive the meeting she had prayed for so earnestly.

### A KINDNESS DONE IN SECRET.

A gentleman being at Marseilles hired a boat with the intention of sailing about for pleasure. He entered into conversation with the two young men who owned the vessel, and learned that they were not watermen by trade, but silversmiths, and that, when they could be spared from their usual business, they employed themselves in boating to increase their earnings. On his expressing surprise at their conduct, they told him the motive which made them so anxious to earn money. Their father, they said, had gone on a trading expedition to Barbary, had been seized by pirates and sold into slavery at Tripoli. They had heard, however, that he could be ransomed, and it was with the object of collecting this ransom that they worked as watermen, as well as silversmiths, though the sum was so great that they scarcely hoped ever to be able to raise it. The gentleman was struck with this account, and on his departure made them a handsome present. Some months afterwards, the young men were working in their shop, when they were greatly surprised at the sudden arrival of their father, who threw

himself into their arms, exclaiming at the same time that he was afraid that they had resorted to some unjust method to raise so large a sum. They professed their ignorance of the whole affair, and could only suspect they owed their father's release to the stranger's generosity. It was not, however, till after the gentleman's death that the matter was cleared up by an account of the sum remitted to Tripoli being found among his papers.

### **BRAVE ATTACK ON A SHARK BY A SAILOR.**

The crew of an English merchantman, which was at Barbadoes, were one day bathing in the sea, when they were alarmed at the appearance of an enormous shark. The men swam towards their boat as fast as possible; but the monster overtook one of them, and, seizing him in his jaws, bit him in halves, and swallowed the lower part. The upper part was taken on board, and the mangled appearance of it so affected one of the sailors, that he vowed to revenge his comrade's death on the shark or perish in the attempt. He accordingly armed himself with the cook's knife and leapt into the sea. The shark no sooner perceived him, than he approached and opened his voracious jaws to swallow him. The sailor at the same moment dived, and rising under the shark's belly, caught firmly hold of one of the fins, and immediately plunged his knife several times into his body. The enraged animal darted instantly to the bottom of the sea, but the sailor remained on the surface to take breath, and to wait for his adversary if he should rise again. Soon after he re-appeared, streaming with blood and writhing with torture; the sailor again attacked him, and, by a few more stabs, reduced him to such a state, that, in the pangs of death, he made towards the shore, followed by his conqueror. Unable to make any further efforts, the sailor pushed him to land, where the tide soon left him dry. The shark was then cut open, and the lower extremity of the dead sailor recovered; it was placed with the other part, and both were buried on the island.

### THE BROKEN FLOWER-POT.

In one of his novels, Lord Lytton relates an incident of the truthfulness of his hero, then a little boy. A beautiful flower-pot fell from the window-sill of an upper storey, and was smashed to pieces at the feet of the boy's father, who was seated on the lawn, reading a book. The flower-pot was a very prized one, and the nurse, afraid of the punishment that would be visited on the boy, who had purposely pushed it over, went down and told his mother that the fall was an accident due to her own carelessness. But her kindly meant story was not unchallenged. "Don't tell fibs, nurse," said a small shrill voice; "it was I who pushed out the flower-pot." "Well," said his mother, somewhat appeased, "I suppose it was an accident; take care in future, my child. You are sorry, I see, to have grieved me. There's a kiss; don't fret." "No, mamma, you must not kiss me," replied the boy; "I don't deserve it. I pushed out the flower-pot on purpose." "Ha! and why?" said his father, walking up. "For fun!" said the little fellow, hanging his head—"just to see how you would look, papa; and that's the truth of it. Now beat me, do beat me!" Instead of doing so, however, his father flung the book he had been reading away from him, stooped down and caught his son to his breast. "Boy," he said, "you have done wrong; you shall repair it by remembering all your life that your father blessed God for giving him a son who spoke truth in spite of fear!" Then, turning to the nurse, he added, "the next fable of this kind you try to teach my boy, we part for ever!"

### THE SWISS SHEPHERD'S SONS AND THE EAGLE'S NEST.

In a little hut among the mountains of Switzerland, a poor shepherd lay dangerously ill in bed. His wife was dead, and only his two little boys lived with him. They tried to nurse him as well as they could, but they had no money to buy the

medicine he needed, and without it they had heard he must soon die. They were in despair, they knew not how they could get the money. But they chanced to hear of a traveller, who was then staying in their village and had offered a large price for a pair of young eagles. There was an eagle's nest high up on a lofty peak, and in it there were known to be two eaglets. It was dangerous, almost impossible, to climb the steep crag, and no one in the village was found willing to make the attempt. But the boys' father was dying ; the thought of the money they might earn to save him nerved them to risk their lives. Off they started in the early morning to the eagles' rock, and up it, step by step, they climbed together, helping each other, till at last the track was too narrow for two to go along it. Leaving his younger brother below, the elder still climbed up the face of the rock, clinging to the narrow ledges with his hands and bare feet. At last he gained the dizzy height, took the eaglets from their nest, bound them round his neck, and began to descend. The descent was more difficult than the ascent, but the thought of his sick father kept the lad resolute and fearless in moments of awful danger. He reached the bottom in safety, and, as if unwearied, ran to the traveller's hotel. There the money was paid to him, and, dismissing his young brother to tend his father, he made his way to the distant town, and procured the medicine. The sick father took it and began to recover, and, after a while, got well, and lived long to bless his brave boys for their noble deed.

### **THE THROW FOR LIFE OR DEATH.**

When William III. of England was besieging Namur, two of his soldiers were sentenced to death for plundering contrary to orders. They were both brave men, and the general-in-chief, who wished to save one, lessened the severity of the sentence in so far as to allow them to throw at dice for their life. On the morning appointed for the execution, the culprits were led to a drum, in order thereupon to cast the decisive throw. With a

trembling hand one of the condemned took up the dice: he threw—two sixes. The next moment he saw that his fellow had also thrown—two sixes. The commanding officers and bystanders were not a little astonished at this strange occurrence; but the orders were precise, and so both the men were commanded to throw again. This was done, the dice were cast, and in the throw of both there turned up—two fives! The spectators now loudly called out that the men should be pardoned and a court-martial appealed to. But the reply was that the offenders should decide their lot with new dice. Once more both of them cast, and, lo—each threw two fours. So astounded were all present that the officers determined to refer the decision to the general-in-chief himself, who was every moment expected. On his arrival, he listened attentively to the story, and was so moved by the strangeness of the occurrence that he pardoned both the culprits.

### HELEN PETRIE.

A few years ago a violent storm broke over one of the Shetland islands, when the fishing fleet was at sea. All the boats, however, reached the haven in safety except one, which capsized, and the sailors were seen struggling in the water. Just then, Helen Petrie, a slender lass, stepped forward, and urged that an attempt to rescue them should be made at all hazards. The men said it was certain death to those who put off in such a storm. Nevertheless Helen Petrie was willing to brave death. She hastily stepped into a small boat. Her sister-in-law joined her; and her father, lame of one hand, went in to take charge of the rudder. Two of the crew of the fishing-boat had already disappeared, but two remained, clinging to the upturned keel of their craft. It was these the women went to save. After great exertions they reached the wreck. Just as they approached it, one of the men was washed off, and he would certainly have been drowned, had not Helen caught him by his hair and dragged him into the boat. The other man was also rescued,

and all the occupants returned to the haven in safety. How few brave deeds can compare with the noble daring of this true heroine, who afterwards earned her bread as a domestic servant and died in obscurity !

### FRIENDSHIP'S TRIAL.

In the beginning of the fourth century before our era, the town of Syracuse in Sicily was ruled over by an able but very suspicious despot. Among many others upon whom his suspicion fell was a member of a religious sect, which counted many members in Syracuse and many neighbouring towns. The suspected man was, by the despot's order, seized, thrown into prison, and condemned to death. He was not a native of Syracuse, and he begged with tears that at least he might be permitted to go and take a last farewell of his family. He had a friend, he said, who would take his place and offer himself to be put to death in his stead, if he did not return. The tyrant, touched maybe by such devotion, consented. The friend entered the prison, and the condemned man departed. The appointed day of execution drew nearer and nearer, but the absentee had not returned. The last day came ; the sentence must be carried out on the friend, who had staked his life on the promise given him and never doubted its fulfilment. His confidence was not misplaced ; the real prisoner had been delayed by floods and storms, but he struggled through just in time to redeem his friend, and calmly offered his neck to the executioner. The tyrant for once relented. Such honour and such friendship were unknown to him before. "You are pardoned," he cried to the condemned ; then, turning to the friend, he said, "Did you not fear he would not return?" "No," was the reply, "I knew but too well that he would be more anxious to keep his promise than to save his life."

### AN INDIAN'S REVENGE.

An English gentleman, who resided on a North American plantation, was one evening standing at his own door, when an

Indian approached him, and asked for a little food. This was refused. The Indian then begged a little water, but the only answer he received was, "Get you gone, you Indian dog." A long time afterwards, the gentleman was out shooting and lost his way in the forest. After wandering about for a long time, he at last perceived an Indian hut, and made his way towards it, in order to inquire his way home. In reply to his questions the Indian told him that it was impossible for him to reach his home that night, and that, if he attempted to stay in the woods, he would be eaten up by wolves. He would be welcome, however, to remain in his hut till morning if he pleased. The generous offer was thankfully accepted; and the Indian boiled some venison for his guest, prepared a bed of skins for him, and treated him with the greatest kindness. In the morning the Indian accompanied the gentleman on his way, till they came within a mile of his plantation. The Indian then abruptly asked the gentleman if he did not know him. "I believe I have seen you," was the reply. "Yes, you *have* seen me," rejoined the Indian, "and at your own door. If, in future, a poor Indian, who is hungry, thirsty, and weary, asks you for a little refreshment, perhaps you will not be so ready to say, 'Get you gone, you Indian dog.'"

### YOUNG BUT MANLY.

During a violent easterly gale a schooner, called the *Sea King*, drove on the beach at Dingy Sands, in the north of England, and there lay beating to pieces. Five men still clung to the cross-trees, and there appeared no means of rescuing them. The rocket apparatus was disabled, and no boats were at hand. But one brave heart was planning a rescue, that of a mere lad named Harry Kent. Procuring from his father's cottage a stout line, he tied one end round his waist, gave the other end to the on-lookers to hold, and dashed into the raging surf. It was only a hundred yards; but what a journey! Once he was curled up inside a great roller, just like a piece of cardboard; then he

was lost sight of altogether, and those who held the line could feel it paying out of their hands ; then they caught sight of his head on the top of a huge breaker, and then nothing—but suspense. But the people on board were astir ; a man was seen loosening a rope, and then pulling away at something. A minute more and the boy stood on board and waved his hat, the signal to draw away at the line, which brought a good stout hawser ashore. The rope chair was soon made, and one by one the precious lives were drawn across the hempen bridge. Brave young Harry Kent ! he had been told once before, when he volunteered to go out to a wreck, that he was not man enough to pull his oar with the others, but man enough he proved to nobly risk his life for the drowning and to save them.

### **THE LITTLE CROSSING SWEEPERS AND THE HALF-SOVEREIGN.**

Two brothers, orphans, lived in a miserable little attic in Glasgow. They used to earn a few pence by sweeping crossings, but they were very, very poor, and sometimes almost starved. Their only possessions were two brooms, and a dog. To this dog they were very fondly attached, and would often go without bread to give him some. One day they were told that they would have to pay tax for the dog or he might be destroyed. The tax was many shillings, much more than they could pay, and their grief was intense. They did not know what to do, and went backwards and forwards to their work with heavy hearts and often tears in their eyes. A day or two after they had received the distressing notice, the elder boy was counting the day's money, when suddenly he stopped, flushed, and held out his hand to his brother. In it lay a half-sovereign. But it never occurred to them to keep it, even in this moment of their great need. They put their heads together to find out who had given them the money in mistake ; and all the next day, at a loss of the few pennies they might have earned, they searched the streets to see if they could find the face of the man who had

given them two halfpennies. At last they found the face, and it proved to be that of the man they sought, and he took the money. But he did it curtly, for he was angry at his carelessness, and walked sulkily away. The boys returned to their crossings, and worked away resolutely, unconscious almost of their good deed. That night, when they had returned home, having taken scarcely any money, there came a knock at their door, and the gentleman, to whom they had given back the money, walked in. He had been sorry for his unkind treatment of the boys, had sought them eagerly and at last found them. When he saw their misery and poverty, he was deeply moved. Not only were the boys helped then, and the dog-tax paid, but they were taken from their wretched calling, apprenticed to a trade, and given the means of earning an honourable livelihood.

### **THE GERMAN PRINCE AND HIS FAITHFUL SOLDIERS.**

A German Prince and a few German soldiers accompanied Napoleon's disastrous expedition into Russia. After the burning of Moscow these Germans had with the rest of the army to fly for their lives. The weather was bitterly cold, the ground covered with snow ; they had little food and often no shelter. One by one the soldiers had fallen down to die, till only a little band remained alive, the prince and a few common soldiers. They had marched wearily all day, and were all but exhausted, when, at the fall of night, they came up to a half-ruined cattle-shed. Small shelter as it afforded from the biting wind and snow, they were glad to meet with it, and there the prince and his men, cold and hungry, lay down to sleep. As the rough but faithful soldiers stood for a moment to watch the prince, worn out in mind and body, cold and with nothing to cover him, sleeping, perhaps, the sleep of death, their compassion was strongly moved. Without a word they stripped off their own cloaks, and gently laid them on him, thinking that the warmth would keep him

alive. Then they threw themselves down to sleep. In the morning, the prince awoke warm and comfortable. He could not account for it. He sat up and looked around him. Quite near lay his men huddled together for warmth. He spoke, but they did not answer. He went up to them, and touched them ; but, what was his horror ! he found they would wake no more. Where were their cloaks ? A glance at the spot where he had lain revealed the truth. The noble fellows had given their life for his.

### **THE ENGINE DRIVER'S STORY.**

An engine-driver used to tell the following story of his reformation from 'the vice of intemperance. It was his duty one afternoon to take charge of an express train, and he had been drinking heavily. Though totally unfit for his responsible duty, he managed to get on to his engine. Fortunately he had a good steady stoker, who was well up to his work, and between them they started. The train had gone about half a mile, when the stoker suddenly cried out, " There's something on the line." The engine-driver sprang from his seat, and sent a loud whistle through the air, but the object never stirred. " We can never stop her ; we have seen it too late," cried the stoker, as he turned off the steam and screwed down the lever as firm as a vice. He looked once again, and cried with a shriek, " It's a child ! " The driver stood as if in a fit. A cold sweat broke over him, and between the drink and the fright he could not stir. He saw the stoker run along the engine, and then he fell senseless on the heap of coals. When he awoke, he was at home, which chanced to be close by, and the stoker was standing near him. The stoker then told him he had run along the engine, and placed one foot on the buffer, and with the other knocked the child out of the jaws of death. The child thus saved was none other than the driver's own little boy. The lesson was a terrible one, and it had its effect, for the driver would always end his story with the words, " Since that day no man can say that I was ever unfit for my duty."

**HEROISM OF A MAID-SERVANT.**

Four men passing late at night along a street, through a French town, fell into a deep opening, which had incautiously been left unguarded. It was midnight before their cries attracted attention, and, when assistance at last arrived, no one was found willing to incur the risk of suffocation by descending into the poisonous vapour which filled the opening. At length, fearless of danger and impelled by the cries of the wives and children of the perishing wretches, a servant girl named Catherine Vassent insisted on being lowered into the pit. She succeeded in fastening a cord, with which she had furnished herself previous to her descent, round the bodies of two of the men, and, assisted by those above, she restored them to life, and to their families. But, in descending a second time, her breath began to fail, and after effectually securing a cord to the body of a third man, she had sufficient presence of mind, although in a fainting condition, to fix the rope firmly to her long hair. She was thus drawn up to the surface with the third man's body, to the great dismay of the bystanders when they caught sight of her almost lifeless form suspended by the hair. Fresh air, however, and brandy, soon restored her, and such was her generous fortitude, that she a third time braved a descent into the cavern, which had almost proved fatal to her. In consequence of the delay the fourth man was drawn up a lifeless corpse. The heroism of this noble-minded girl stands out in bright contrast to the selfish cowardice of the bystanders, who refused to even share her glorious danger.

**THE BOY WHO WOULD NOT ROB THE ORCHARD.**

A small Flemish boy was one day tending cows, as they grazed along the broad green roadside which skirted an orchard. The orchard was fenced round with high close palings, but, if there had been none, the little cowherd would never have been tempted to enter it. Just as he was passing the orchard, two

frollicsome young gentlemen were passing too, and had espied a small hole in the orchard fence, through which a small boy might manage to squeeze himself. One of them hailed the little cowherd, and bade him creep through the hole and get some plums. But the little fellow did not move ; he simply said, " No, sir." A pool of stagnant water happened to be close by, and the gentlemen threatened they would duck him in it if he would not listen to them. The boy, who was young and delicate, turned pale and looked timid, but he only said, with a distressed smile, " No, sir ; I cannot, sir." One of the young fellows then angrily seized the boy by the shoulder, dragged him to the hole in the fence, and repeated his threat. The child still refused. His tormentor hurried him to the pond and ducked him, and then asked him, " Now will you ? " When breath came back sufficiently he gasped, " Oh, sir, I can't." Before he could draw another breath he was thrust under the water again. " I'll show you that you can, and shall," said the other. As long as he could speak, the child declined to do the wrong, and the young gentlemen were too proud to give up the contest defeated. Unfortunately for them the boy was very delicate, and long before they had any idea of danger, they brought him out of the water too far gone to speak. He was beyond the reach of their questions. His brave honest little heart had ceased to beat—he was dead.

### THE SENTINEL AND HIS SISTER.

During the American Civil War, a young soldier named Ben Owen was condemned to be shot for sleeping at his post. His regiment had had a long day's march, carrying heavy muskets and knapsacks, over rough roads and under a burning sun. Amongst those who were ordered to keep watch was a friend of Ben's, and he was ill ; so, in pity for him, Ben took his place weary as he was. But Ben was too tired to keep awake, and, as he stood in his place, his eyes closed, his head fell down on to the muzzle of his gun, and he went fast asleep, and, alas ! he

was found asleep. For this neglect of duty, Ben was arrested, tried, found guilty, and condemned to be shot. The dreadful news was sent to Ben's family, who were broken-hearted. Especially was the blow a crushing one to Ben's young sister. After her first long burst of grief, the true-hearted girl began to think whether she could not do something to save him. At last a plan occurred to her. She would go to the President of the United States and beg Ben's pardon. She was very young, a mere child, but love made her brave. Late that night, when all was quiet in the sad household, she glided out and found her way to the station. She took her seat in the train, and next morning found her knocking with a trembling hand at the door of the President's room in the great Government House. The President bade her come in, and kindly listened while amid her tears she timidly told her tale. She said that it was another soldier's turn on duty who was ill, and that Ben had in pity taken his place, and was too weary for it, having carried his friend's baggage in addition to his own all day, and that Ben was going to be shot. When she had finished, the President thought a moment, then took pen and paper and wrote. It was an order for Ben's reprieve. The brave girl's love had triumphed, and her brother's life was its reward.

### A CLEVER PONY.

The following instance of a Shetland pony's sagacity occurred a few years ago in one of the Orkney Islands. The pony was the property of a pupil-teacher, who used to ride it to and from school, and it had been unshod up to the time of its coming into his possession. The owner, however, determined to have it shod, and for this purpose took it to the village blacksmith. Some months after, the blacksmith, who lived a long way from the pupil-teacher's residence, saw the pony, without halter or anything upon it, walking up to where he was working. Thinking the animal had strayed from home, he drove it off, throwing stones after the beast to make it run homewards. This had

the desired effect for a short time ; but the blacksmith had only got fairly to work once more in the smithy when the pony's head again appeared at the door. On proceeding a second time outside to drive the pony away, he, with a blacksmith's instinct, took a look at the pony's feet, when he observed that one of its shoes had been lost. Having made a shoe he put it on, and then waited to see what the animal would do. For a moment it looked at the blacksmith as if asking whether he was done, then pawed once or twice to see if the newly-shod foot was comfortable, and finally gave a pleased neigh, erected its head, and started homewards at a brisk trot. The owner was also exceedingly surprised to find the animal at home completely shod the same evening, and it was only on calling at the smithy some days afterwards that he learned the full extent of his pony's sagacity.

### SMALL SERVICE.

An English lady, who lived in the country, was about to have a large dinner-party. So that there might seem to be no lack of servants, a great lad named Thomas, who had been employed only in farm work, was dressed up for the occasion, and told to stand without moving behind his mistress's chair. Accordingly Thomas, having thus been instructed, took his post at the head of the table, behind his mistress, and for a time all went well. At length, however, getting weary of staring at the guests, his eyes began to wander to other objects. The lady was wearing a low dress, and crawling along the back of her bare neck Thomas espied a flea. The guests were too much engaged with the business and courtesies of the table to see, what must have been worth seeing, the change produced in Thomas's countenance by delight, when he saw so fine an opportunity of showing himself attentive and making himself useful. The lady was too much occupied to feel the flea ; but, to her horror, she felt the great finger and thumb of Thomas upon her back, and, to her greater horror, heard him exclaim, to the still greater

amusement of the party, "A flea, a flea ! my lady, and sure I've caught 'en !"

### THE BRAVE DRUMMER BOY.

The following story of the brave but sad death of a French drummer boy is told as having occurred during the siege of Heidelberg, a town in Germany. The French were attacking the place, which was held by the Austrians, and, in order to dislodge the latter, it was necessary to force a way over the bridge which spanned the river Neckar. The French kept up a tremendous fire from their cannon against the Austrians who defended the bridge, but were unable to make them retreat. Charge after charge was then made by the French infantry in vain. The Austrian artillery and the musketry fire mowed them down each time as they advanced. During some of these charges, the soldiers advanced as far as the middle of the bridge, accompanied by their band, but again and again were forced to retreat. At last, the little drummer boy of the band mounted the parapet, and, fearless of death, though deserted by all his comrades, stood there alone, bravely beating his drum to recall the men to the charge. With fixed bayonets the Austrians rushed on against their retreating enemies, whom not even the example of the drummer boy could nerve to stand firm. While the little hero was still beating his drum, one of the foe in the charge ran him through the body, and he fell into the rapid river below. As he did so, his last cry, "Oh my mother ! my mother !" was heard by both friend and foe, and so deep was the impression made by his bravery on all who witnessed it that the incident is still remembered and repeated in connection with the bridge.

### THE DUTCH SHIPMASTER AND THE RUSSIAN COTTAGER.

In a little town five miles from St. Petersburg, lived a poor woman who kept a small inn. Several Dutch shipmasters

having supped at her house one evening, she found when they were gone a sealed bag of money under the table. Some one of the company had no doubt forgotten it ; but they had sailed over to Cronstadt, and the wind being fair there was no chance of their putting back. The good woman put the bag into her cupboard, to keep it till it should be called for. Full seven years, however, elapsed and no one claimed it ; and though often tempted by opportunity, and oftener by want, to make use of the contents, the poor woman's good principles prevailed, and it remained untouched. One evening some shipmasters again stopped at her house for refreshment. Three of them were English, the fourth a Dutchman. One of them happened to ask the Dutchman if he had ever been in that town before, to which the Dutchman replied that he knew the place only too well, and that a visit once cost him 700 roubles. An explanation followed, in the course of which he stated that the bag containing the money was sealed with the seal on his watch-chain. The woman knew it instantly, and told him he might recover what he had lost. The Dutchman, however, laughed at the idea of there existing such honesty, but the woman slipped out of the room and soon returned with the bag. " See here," said she, " honesty is perhaps not so rare as you imagine ; " and she handed the bag to the astonished and delighted owner.

### **A LIFE OF SELF-DEVOTION.**

A French lady, at one time rich, was left a widow with four sons, and gradually fell into extreme poverty. Two kind gentlemen were interested in the family, and three of the sons were placed in good situations ; but the youngest, Jean, being a particularly promising boy, they wished him to receive a superior education, and, finding themselves unable both to keep him at school and to support his mother, they decided on sending her to the hospital. Jean was at this time nine and a half years old, and happening to pay a visit to one of his benefactors, accidentally discovered the proposal with regard to his mother.

"My mother shall not go to the hospital," he exclaimed ; "she would die of vexation. I will not return to school. I will stay with her. I will support her." Refusing to be diverted from his purpose, he first solicited aid from his brothers, and, on their refusal, sold his clothes and a watch that had been given to him for some success at school. With this capital, the little fellow set up as a hawker of cakes and children's toys, and succeeded in earning enough to support his mother. At the time his story came under the public notice, he had been nineteen years solely devoted to her, refusing every offer that would separate him from her. He was at that time porter at an inn in his native town. How great a contrast must this have been with the position he might have attained but for his love of his mother !

### A VENTRILOQUIST IN DANGER.

A ventriloquist named Hoskins was once travelling on foot in the country, and overtook on the road a carter driving a team with a load of hay. After walking some time with the countryman, Hoskins imitated the crying of a child. As there was not any child to be seen, the carter appeared surprised, and asked Hoskins if he had not heard it. He replied that he had, and almost at the same instant the cry was repeated. It appeared to come this time from under the hay in the cart, and the ventriloquist insisted that the carter had concealed a child there. The poor fellow, astonished and alarmed, stopped his horses and unloaded the cart truss by truss. No child, however, was found, and he reloaded it, which he had scarcely done when the cry was again distinctly heard. The countryman, frightened out of his wits, immediately took to his heels, and running to the nearest village, told the villagers he had met an evil spirit on the road, and begged them to go and assist him to recover his cart and horses. The peasants at once set off, armed with pitchforks and flails, and soon arrived in sight of the supposed demon, who having a wooden leg

could not run away. After some difficulty he persuaded them to let him approach, and show them that he was really a human being. But his acts so astonished them that they would have attacked him, had not the village curate fortunately arrived and explained the matter to their satisfaction.

### ANTIGONE.

One of the most beautiful characters in ancient story is that of the Greek maiden Antigone. The daughter of an exiled and blinded king, the companion of his wanderings and his poverty, the soother of his unmerited affliction, she became, after her father's death, the ward of a cruel uncle. Between that uncle and her brother a fierce war broke out, in which the brother lost his life. Revengeful still in his victory, the uncle forbade, under penalty of death—a slow, torturing death—the burial of his nephew, Antigone's brother. According to Greek ideas, the spirit of the dead knew no rest while the body lay unburied, hence to perform the funeral rites over the dead was in Greece one of the most sacred duties of the relatives. To Antigone, such a duty, backed by a sister's affection, was far more solemn than obedience to a remorseless tyrant's edict. Young as she was, with every prospect of happiness before her, an affianced bride, she resolved to sacrifice everything to her principles and her duty, to brave death itself in an attempt to sprinkle the few handfuls of earth, which her religion taught her were sufficient to secure rest to her brother's spirit. The body lay outside the walls, and to it alone she made her way, befriended only by the darkness and a storm. She performed the necessary ceremony, but she was discovered. The tyrant, before whom she was brought, knew no pity, and heeded not her appeal to a law higher than that of man. She was condemned to be walled up alive in a rocky cavern, and to her martyrdom she was led away, confident in the truth of her principles, calm in the consciousness of a noble sacrifice.

**"I WILL MAKE YOU REPENT IT."**

A young officer once so far forgot himself as to strike a private soldier. The laws of military discipline forbade to the injured soldier any redress by acts. Words only were at his command, and, in a tumult of indignation, as he turned away, the soldier said to his officer that he would "make him repent it." Some weeks after this a partial action took place with the enemy, in the course of which occasion arose for a desperate service. A redoubt, which had fallen into the enemy's hands, had to be recaptured at any price, and under circumstances of all but hopeless difficulty. A strong party volunteered for the service; some one was called for to head them, and a private stepped out from the ranks to assume the dangerous leadership. The party moved rapidly forward, and were soon lost to sight in clouds of smoke. For one half-hour their fate was uncertain. The flash of the guns only could be seen, and the rolling musketry heard, mingled with exulting hurrahs, now advancing, now retreating. At length all was over; the redoubt had been recovered. As the glorious little band returned, an officer rushed forward and seized the hand of the gallant leader; but, as they recognized each other, they paused: the soldier that was struck, the officer that struck him, again stood face to face. The doubt was but for a moment: one glance exchanged expressed forgiveness. The officer sprang forward and clasped the returning hero—mere private though he was—in his arms; whilst on his part, the soldier, as soon as he could disengage himself, stepped back, and, carrying his open hand through the motions of the military salute, made the noble answer, "Sir, I told you before that I would make you repent it."

**THE RUSSIAN EXILE'S DAUGHTER.**

A Russian officer had been banished to Siberia. He had done no harm to any one; his only offence was his having incurred the displeasure of the cruel emperor, Ivan the Terrible.

To the cold dreary desert, in which he had been condemned to stop and pine till he died, he was accompanied by his faithful wife and his little girl. Weighed down by the injustice of his sentence, the exile became broken-hearted and his health failed. His young daughter saw this, and became sad and wretched too. As she grew older she learnt the cause of her father's gloom, and in her heart a passionate longing grew up to help him. Could she do nothing to restore him to the friends, the home, the liberty for which he pined? She knew the emperor had banished her father, and that he alone could restore him. If she could only get to the emperor she felt sure, in her young hopefulness, that she could touch his heart. She thought nothing of the hundreds of miles over wastes and deserts and trackless snows she would have to travel. Love was in her heart; she felt she must go, and she started. Week after week, and month after month, she plodded on through snow and mud, in the face of drenching rain and pitiless wind. Often she lost her way; often she was penniless; often the shelter she asked was refused, and the bread she begged denied. Sometimes she slept in a hovel, sometimes in a kindly cottage, sometimes in the open air. She was jeered at often and ill-treated; even dogs were set upon her. But timid, hungry, frozen, foot-sore though she was, she was undaunted. For eighteen months she pursued her weary journey to Moscow. At last she reached it, found her way to the emperor, and told her tale. Even his cruel heart was touched at such devotion. Her father returned to home and liberty; but the struggle had been too great for the heroic girl. She shortly afterwards fell ill and died.

### THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG AND THE DROWNING CHILD.

As an American river boat stopped for a few minutes at the wharf at Louisville, the only child of a wealthy lady on board sprang by a sudden effort from its nurse's arms into the terrible

current that sweeps toward the falls, and disappeared immediately. A gentleman, who was sitting in the forepart of the boat, rose hastily and asked for some article the child had worn. Receiving in reply a tiny apron that had been worn by the babe, he turned to a Newfoundland dog that was watching his countenance, and pointed first to the apron, and then to the spot where the child had gone under. In an instant the noble dog leaped into the rushing water and also disappeared. Supposing that the dog was lost as well as the child, some people on shore procured a boat and started off to search for the body. Just at this moment the dog was seen far away with something in his mouth. Bravely he struggled with the waves, but it was evident that his strength was failing fast. The boat, however, quickly approached, and in a few instants more the dog and the child were lifted into it. To the surprise of all the child was still alive, and was soon restored to its mother's arms, whose joy touched every heart. But it was almost equally touching to see the mother, in her transport of gratitude, kneel down and hug in her arms the brave preserver of her child's life.

### THEY VOLUNTEERED TO A MAN.

The rescue of the crew of the barque *Carnatic* by the crew of the barque *Alumbagh*, which occurred only a few months ago, deserves a high place in the record of brave deeds. When off the Cape of Good Hope, the *Alumbagh* encountered a terrible storm. Her decks were clean swept, her cargo shifted, and she sprang a leak. When things were at their worst, and the ship in great danger, the *Carnatic* hove in sight, and signalled that she was sinking. Damaged as his own ship was, Captain McDonald of the *Alumbagh* resolved to stand by the still more distressed *Carnatic*. All day and the next night the gale kept on, and the sea rose and rose. At length it was clear that the *Carnatic* could not last much longer, so Captain McDonald determined to pick out a crew for a boat. He

called the men aft, and explained the case to them ; then he asked for volunteers to go in the boat. There was little chance of anything but death, and the captain plainly told the men that those who went would be almost certain to lose their lives. But the good fellows accepted the risk, and the ship's company volunteered to a man. The chief officer begged that he might steer, and his request was granted. He chose five men to accompany him, and at daylight the life-boat was launched. After long trying they got clear of their rolling ship, and set out on their perilous voyage. They reached the foundering ship in safety, and brought off half a dozen of the crew—their boat would hold no more. But there were more to be saved, and the men who had once risked their lives would risk them again. For four hours the chief officer and his crew of dauntless rowers worked amid the wild seas. Not once, but three times, those sailors went on their good errand, and succeeded in saving nineteen lives. The rescue was effected none too soon, for very shortly after the last man was taken out of her the *Carnatic* drifted away and foundered. The *Alumbagh* succeeded in reaching St. Helena, where she landed the rescued crew.

### A REMEMBERED FACE.

A midshipman had gone ashore with the captain of his ship, and was left in command of the boat. While the captain was absent, two of the men in the midshipman's charge requested permission to make some trifling purchase. The good-natured officer assented, adding : "By the way, you may as well buy me some apples and a few pears." "All right, sir," said the men, and they departed. The captain presently returned, and still the seamen were away on their errand. They were searched for, but could not be found. They had deserted, and the midshipman fell into great disgrace with his captain. Very many years after, when the midshipman had long since left the navy, he was strolling along a street in London, when he

was suddenly struck with the form and face of a baker, who was looking into a shop window. There was no mistake. Even the flour dredge could not hide the fact. The ex-midshipman walked nimbly up to the baker's side, and rapping him sharply on the back, said: "I say, my friend, don't you think you've been rather a long time about that fruit?" The deserter's jaw fell; an unquiet conscience had for thirty years kept alive the remembrance of the fruit and the little middy, for he said, "Lor! is that you, sir?" The midshipman, however, did not report him, but only nodded, and went on his way laughing.

### YOUTHFUL BENEVOLENCE.

A poor lace-maker in Paris, with a large family, fell ill, and was reduced to the bitterest misery. His wife also was dangerously ill, and the whole care of the family fell on the eldest child, a girl twelve years old. To supply the wants of the starving family, this girl tried to beg for bread, but no one answered her modest claim. Driven at last to despair, she seized a loaf from a baker's shop and hastened away. She was at once followed and handed over to the police; but, looking round on the crowd, she perceived a child of about her own age, whose kindly look of sympathy encouraged her to confide her parents' address. Whilst the poor family were waiting in agonies of want and despair, a light step was heard, and a girl appeared at their door. It was not their expected child. It was a little angel, with rosy cheeks and golden hair, bearing a small basket of provisions. "Your daughter is not likely to return home to-day," she said; "but fear not—she is well—eat what she has been the means of sending you." She then placed ten francs in the hands of the mother of the family, and suddenly disappeared. But how had these ten francs been obtained? Her golden tresses had caught the eye of a neighbouring hairdresser, who had often said that he would give a pound for that beautiful head of hair. When this occasion of doing good presented itself, this kind-hearted little creature

had remembered the man's words, sought his house and offered to sell her hair, telling him to cut it off quickly. The man, struck by her haste, asked her the reason, and, being of a kind disposition, pretended to accept the terms, gave her fifteen francs, and told her that, as she was then in a hurry, she might come again to have her hair cut off.

The poor family, thus saved from starvation by the kind and self-denying act of this little girl, recovered their daughter, and, with her, health, comfort, and joy, returned to their humble dwelling.

### CAPTAIN KNOWLES OF THE "NORTHFLEET."

Unselfishness has seldom been better illustrated than in the closing scene of this brave sailor's life. His ship, the *Northfleet*, with a number of emigrants on board, while lying at anchor, was run into at eleven o'clock at night by a Spanish ship, the *Murillo*, and at once began to sink. The Spaniard backed out from amidships and steamed away, leaving over three hundred people to perish, without the slightest offer of assistance. Amid the terrible scene of confusion that ensued, Captain Knowles stood calm and collected, issuing his orders. The boats were lowered, and the captain directed that the women and children should at once be got into them. There was a frantic rush of men towards the boats, and the helpless women and children were in danger of being thrust aside, trampled on, and left to perish. But the captain was equal to the terrible emergency. Standing at the bulwarks, revolver in hand, he threatened to shoot the first man who stood in the way. A man pushed forward. He was shot in the leg and disabled. The women and children now were able to embark, and two boats pushed off, full of people, including the captain's wife, to whom he had just recently been married. But none others followed; the ship was rapidly settling down, the waves were quivering about her, and then she sank. The heroic captain, whom no terror could dismay, and no private ties allure from the post of duty, sank with his ship.

### THE PRISONER AND HIS SON.

During the troublous times in France known as the Reign of Terror, many innocent persons were seized, thrown into prison, and, without form of trial, led to execution. Among those thus thrown into prison, was a French artisan, seventy-two years old. The cell into which he was thrust was crowded with men and women condemned to be killed. In the morning officers would come, read out names, and the people named would be led out and have their heads cut off. The old man quietly looked around him in the gloom, and at last his wandering eyes stopped short, as they were passing a sleeper lying on a bed. His sight became dim, his heart leaped into his mouth; it was his son, his own son brought there too to die. He sank down in agony. At last he roused himself and began to think. Every one expected that the Reign of Terror would not last long. His son's name, which the officers would call in the morning, was the same as his own. He loved his child better—far better than his life. "If he will but *sleep*, if he will but *sleep*," he said to himself, "I will go in his stead, I will die for him." If he could only sleep! What time was it? How restlessly he looked at the time, and then how anxiously at the sleeper's face! How slowly the minutes passed! At length the morning broke. He heard approaching footsteps. Did his son still sleep? He crept near his bedside; heard the slow breathing of heavy slumber; gave a sigh of delight, and pressed one gentle kiss on the uncovered hand. The door opened. An officer appeared and read out the names. His son's name, which was also his own, was called. "Here," said the old man, and he joined the condemned band. His son still slept. In another moment the little group were on their way to the place of execution. There was no fear in the old man's heart, except that his plans would be discovered. At length the fatal place was reached. He quickly laid his body down; heaved one deep prayer for his son, and, with a smile on his face, closed his eyes in death's long sleep. It is im-

possible to describe the son's feelings when he awoke. He wished to follow his father to the grave, but his fellow-prisoners prevented him. That would have been, they said, to throw his father's life away as well as his own. He became at last contented to live, and he did live ; for almost immediately the Reign of Terror ceased, and the young man was released.

### **A PLAIN-SPOKEN YOUNG ENSIGN.**

The following incident is told of Colin Mackenzie's first interview with his commander-in-chief. Having, through his father's influence, obtained a cadetship in the Madras army, he arrived at Madras in May, 1826, and of course called upon the Commander-in-Chief, Sir George Walker. After waiting some time in a room full of officers, he went up to the Aide-de-Camp and said : " Can you tell me if I am to have the honour of an interview with the Commander-in-Chief or not, for I am not accustomed to kick my heels in a great man's ante-chamber ? " The Aide-de-Camp, who was afterwards his fast friend, General Forster, repeated this to Sir George Walker, who was excessively amused, and asked the audacious young ensign to dinner. He declined on the plea that he was already engaged. Some one told him this was quite contrary to custom ; that an invitation from the Governor or Commander-in-Chief was looked upon in the light of a command, and superseded all other engagements ; whereupon he wrote again, saying he had not been aware of this rule, and apologising for his breach of etiquette. Sir George answered very kindly : " I invited you to give you pleasure, and not to interfere with any other engagement, and I shall always be glad to see you at any time."

### **A HIGHLANDER'S TEMERITY.**

A young Highlander, named MacIver, serving in Garibaldi's British Legion at the bombardment of Capua, was challenged for a basket of wine to show himself over the breastworks " for

one short minute." The next minute he sprang on the parapet, where he was duly exposed to the enemy's shots. Zip—zip—zip—zip, whistled the bullets around him, and there he stood as calmly as if on parade, firing and reloading, firing and reloading, and still without cessation the zip—zip—zip of the leaden messengers of death sighing around him, and even striking near him, like a fierce storm of hail. Ere long his cap was shot off his head, his loose, red Garibaldian shirt was perforated, and his body actually grazed in many places, and yet he kept his stand. Each instant his comrades expected to see him fall back dead or mortally wounded, but he never flinched nor stirred even, except to discharge or load his rifle. Most of the officers were almost paralyzed at his temerity, but at length one of them called out: "For Heaven's sake, MacIver, come down! You have tempted Providence too long." Thus adjured, the young Highlander fired a parting shot from his rifle, and then coolly lighted a cigar with his face still to the enemy. Then he turned deliberately round and jumped down amongst his astonished companions, having been five minutes on the parapet.

#### **WILLIAM IV. AND THE DESTITUTE ORPHAN.**

One morning, when the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., having received his commission and his ship, was on his way to his tailor's in Plymouth, to get the new uniform, at a street corner he saw a boy crying, and stopped to inquire the cause. The lad looked up through his tears, revealing a handsome, winning, and intelligent face, and replied that his mother had died only a few days before, and that he had been cast homeless into the streets. "Where is your father?" asked the Prince. "He was lost in the *Sussex*, on the Cornwall coast, two years ago." "How would you like to go to sea in a first-rate man of war?" The boy's face brightened as he answered that he should like it very well. The Prince took out his pocket-book and wrote something upon a slip of paper, which

he gave to the boy with a shilling. "Go down to the docks," he said, "and with this shilling you will hire a boatman to carry you off to the *Pegasus*. When you get on board the ship, you will give this paper to the officer whom you find in charge of the deck, and he will take care of you. Cheer up, my lad ! Show me that you have a true heart, and you shall surely find a true friend." Arrived on board the *Pegasus*, the officer of the deck received him kindly, and sent him to sit upon a gun-carriage under the break of the poop. In less than an hour the Prince came off in his new uniform ; and the boy was strangely moved upon discovering that the man who had promised to be his friend was none other than William Duke of Clarence, and captain of the frigate. The boy, whose name was Albert Doyer, was taken into the cabin, where the Prince questioned him, and forthwith he ordered him to be rated as a midshipman, and from his own purse he procured him an outfit. During the voyage to the American coast the Prince became strongly attached to his youthful *protégé*, keeping him about his person continually, and instructing him in general branches of education, as well as in his profession. Time passed on, and the boy grew to be a man, serving King and country faithfully. In time William became King, and signed the commission which made Albert Doyer a rear-admiral. He exclaimed, as he put his signature to the document : "There—if I have ever done a good deed for England, it was when I saved to her service that true and worthy man !"

### THE ADVOCATE AND HIS CLIENT.

It is related of a great French advocate that he pleaded a case unsuccessfully, and all because an important document had not been produced. The judge's decision was reported to Parliament and confirmed. There was now no appeal. The suitor called upon the advocate and deplored the loss of his fortune. He asserted that it had occurred through not referring important document, the foundation of his case. The

advocate protested that he had not seen the document. The client insisted that it had been handed to him with the other papers. At length the advocate opened his bag, searched, and found the document. He knew that the case would have been won, had it been produced and read ; but there was no appeal. The advocate took his course on the instant. He told the suitor to call upon him next morning. In the meantime he gathered together all the money that he could find, and when his client called, he handed the whole over to him, although it involved the loss of his fortune. A great fault indeed had been committed, but the reparation was truly noble !

### THE POINTSMAN'S TEMPTATION.

A pointsman one day took his little boy, four years old, with him into the signal-box, while his wife went by train to the neighbouring market-town to make some purchases. The little fellow was placed in one of the corners of the signal-box, and there he sat quite still and contented, playing with a toy ; his father looking round at him occasionally in the intervals of his work. At length on looking round in one of these intervals, the pointsman saw to his horror that the boy was gone. He instantly gave a glance out of the window of the signal-box, and on the line he saw a sight which froze the blood in his veins. The little boy had gone to pick up a toy, which had been thrown from a passing train, and he was then standing on the central rails, over which an express train would in an instant rush. The pointsman could hear the roar of the engine, and in that terrible moment a tempting thought flashed across his mind. If he merely stayed his hand an instant, the express would run on to the side rails, and his boy's life be saved. But on the side rails a local train was standing ; a fearful collision must ensue, and perhaps a hundred lives be lost. The doubt was but for a moment ; the better thought prevailed. He gave one despairing shout to his boy, which was not heeded, then turned the

express on to the central rails, and, as it rushed by, sank down in agony. He dared not look out again to the spot where he felt sure he would see the mangled remains of his dead child. But as he lay there, a child's voice reached his ear—his child's voice, it seemed; he could bear the strain no longer, and fainted. When he came to himself, he was in his own cottage, and beside him stood his son unhurt, and his wife. She had returned, she told him, by the local train, which was standing on the side rails when the express dashed through; she had seen her boy standing right in the way of the rushing train, and in a moment she had leapt on to the line, and dragged him from the jaws of death.

### A WIFE'S FORGIVENESS AND HEROISM.

A fire broke out very suddenly one evening in a back court of one of our largest manufacturing towns. The flames spread with marvellous rapidity, and in a few moments the crowded houses were wrapped in a sheet of fire, and the court filled with black and stifling smoke. The occupants, however, were able to escape and join the surging crowd of onlookers. All at once some one recollected and shouted out that in one of the burning houses there still remained a man, who was lying in a drunken fit, quite unconscious of the terrible fate overtaking him. A moment's pause and silence followed the announcement—no one would venture to ascend the burning staircase, and face a horrible and seemingly certain death. But the silence was of short duration: it was broken by the warning shout, "Keep back! keep back!" as a woman was seen to dash forward, leap on to the flaming stairs, and disappear from view. The crowd watched with bated breath, while the flames rose higher and higher, and the roof began to give way. All hope of the brave woman's return would in a few instants more be gone; but at last the straining eyes caught sight of her, and her appearance was greeted with a deafening cheer. Dragging her heavy burden with her, down she came through falling timbers and

rushed by, re-  
 to the spot  
 of his de-  
 his ear-  
 longer, and  
 s own com-  
 wife. She  
 ch was star-  
 gh : she be-  
 ng train, a-  
 ged him in-

slates and through smoke and flame. Just, however, as she reached the bottom, she staggered and fell, and, as she fell, a stream of molten lead came pouring down upon her from the roof. The bystanders quickly pulled her away, but it was too late. She was dead, though her charge escaped unhurt. The man she died to save was her brutal husband, who, a year before, had with inhuman savagery kicked her almost to death, and then turned her out to starve. It was only by chance that she passed the court that evening, and saw the fire, and heard of the forgotten drunkard, who she knew must be her husband. But with noble forgiveness of the past, and splendid courage, she instantly rushed to his rescue, and in rescuing him died.

# BROTH

## THE LIFEBOAT CAPTAIN AND HIS SON.

a back on  
 flames of  
 the crew  
 court  
 however, w  
 smokers :  
 one of :  
 lying :  
 taking in  
 ment :  
 d face.  
 was :  
 "Kne  
 red, her  
 crew :  
 r and  
 brave  
 be-  
 ear-  
 any  
 ind

A vessel ran on a rock one night in a fearful storm near one of the wildest parts of our northern coast. The signals of distress were seen from the shore, and without delay the lifeboat crew assembled, ready even at desperate risk to launch their boat, and attempt a rescue. All the crew were there but one—the captain; and he was watching by the bedside of his wife, who lay seemingly dying. His mates went to tell him that they were going to launch the boat; but, raging as the storm was, and certain death as it seemed to attempt to put out, it was not fear that made the old captain say, as he pointed to the bed where his wife was lying, "Mates, I can't go and leave her to die alone." The sick woman, however, caught his answer, and, pointing towards the sea, she bade him go to the help of the perishing crew, every one of whom, she said, was some poor mother's son. He knew, when she used those words, that she was thinking of their son, who years before had got into trouble in London, had run away, and never been heard of since. To her the blow had been a terrible one, crushing all joy out of her life and bringing her at last to the bed of sickness, from which she never expected to rise. So she bade her husband go and

help to save, if possible, other mothers from a loss such as hers. Brushing away a tear, the captain turned and followed his mates, and soon the boat was got off. She stood the sea bravely, and the crew neared in safety the sinking ship. But just as they came within hail of her, she gave a fearful lunge and disappeared. They rowed to the spot and shouted, but no answer came. At last, as they were preparing to return, the captain thought he heard a cry, and saw something dark dash past the bows. He clutched it, dragged it on board, then missed his footing, fell heavily on his head, and lay stunned and senseless. It was weeks before he came to himself again, but when he awoke to consciousness he was in his bed in his cottage, and bending over him was his wife, evidently restored to health. But she was not alone: near her stood the long lost son. It was he whom the captain had rescued from the wild waves on that stormy night, and it was the joy at his reappearance which had raised the mother up as by a miracle from the dead.

### THE FAIRY'S WAND.

A little girl, eight years old, was employed one Christmas time to act as a fairy queen in a pantomime at one of the London theatres. Her mother lay dying that winter of a wasting fever, and her father was a drunkard, who spent all his wages, and even his daughter's scanty earnings, in drink. But, night after night, the little girl went from the cheerless cellar she called her home to the bright and glittering stage. Her part in the play was to stand in a dark cave, where the demon of evil worked his spell, and to wave her wand, at the same time bidding the haunt of evil and darkness disappear, and the home of brightness and bliss take its place. As she spoke and waved her wand, the dismal cave faded away, and in its stead rose up slowly, with all its lime-lit splendours, the bright abode of happiness which she summoned. So often had she watched this wonderful change that at last, child as she was, she began to

believe that her wand had really a magic power, and that, if she could only wave it over her dying mother, now getting ever weaker and weaker, health and happiness might again be hers. So one night she stole home from the theatre, with the wand hidden under her shawl, and crept to her dying mother's bedside. There she was found, not long after, by a man who had followed her from the theatre in the belief that she had stolen something. She was uttering with passionate earnestness her well-known lines, and still waving her wand above the loved face, over which the shadows of death had but just spread. The little girl has been to school since then, and she has learned better how to estimate a fairy's power, but she still believes that, as she waved her wand that night, darkness and gloom did indeed for her mother disappear for ever before the brightness of the heaven she entered.

### WRONGLY SUSPECTED.

A pedlar was found many years ago lying wounded, robbed, and senseless, in a ditch near a remote country village. A young man, a native of the village, was caught near the spot with a gun in his hand and the pedlar's gold in his possession. He had always been known to be of exemplary character, and few could believe that he was the real culprit. At the trial, however, the evidence seemed conclusive against him, and he was convicted, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. At the expiration of his sentence he returned to his native village, but scarcely any one would give him employment. He was suspected, jeered at, and taunted, and must almost have starved; still he would not leave his native place. Things went on like this for over a year, when there reached the village a startling story about a felon, who had died in the county goal, and before his death had confessed himself to have been the assailant and robber of the pedlar. This felon was the son of an old farmer of the village, who at the time of the occurrence lay ill and dying. Though well known to be wild and dissolute, the lad

was the idol of the old man's heart—the loved son of whom no evil would be believed. The farmer had also been the kindest of friends to the wrongly suspected man, who in return was warmly attached to his benefactor, and endeavoured in every way to repay his kindness. With this object he had striven to keep away from the old man's ears the stories of his son's wild conduct, knowing well that the shock they would cause would probably be fatal. And so it was that on that fatal night he had followed the worthless son, in the hope of being able to deter him from some crime, and had witnessed the outrage. He had pursued the miscreant, wrenched the money and the gun from his hand, and then allowing him to escape, had himself remained to be caught. One word he might have spoken to clear himself of all suspicion, but for the sake of the aged and dying man, who had been to him more than a father, he had nobly borne through all those weary years the miseries of a felon's cell, and the unmerited shame and sneers.

h

on the  
index  
it was  
every  
ven:  
's will  
would  
ght be  
ble to  
strage  
nd the  
, had  
have  
of the  
father  
series

